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Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED



Μήνυμα Προέδρου Ε.Ε.Σ.

When the terrible wildfires struck Greece, our volunteers showed an exceptional sense of responsibility, humanity, commitment to duty, and readiness, but, first and foremost, self-sacrifice, constantly demonstrating their high level of training and organization. We admire them and give them a big round of applause, so that it may be heard around the world, as a token of gratitude and support. At the same time, the broad recognition shown by the people and the State towards the work of the HRC in the country's fire-stricken areas is the greatest reward for our volunteers and staff.

The public's contribution was just as moving when called to provide financial assistance for the fire victims throughout the country. The people's response exceeded all expectations, managing to raise more than 2,500,000 euros. Having developed

long-standing experience and know-how in the design and implementation of relief and support programmes for people, families and communities affected by extraordinary catastrophic events, we are committed to ensuring that these funds will be fully utilised to support residents in the affected areas.

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,

The President of the HRC

Dr. Antonios Argerimos

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



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The HRC embraces the fire victims throughout the country



The Hellenic Red Cross provided a vital, immediate and effective contribution in order to alleviate the prolonged crisis arising from the successive fires that burned large areas and destroyed properties in various parts of Greece.

From the very onset of the fires, the ranks of the HRC's volunteers reacted immediately, finding themselves in Varibobi, Vilia, Stamata, Keratea, Northern Evia, Ancient Olympia, Patras, Rhodes, Karystos, Mani and Gortynia. They aided the Fire Department in the extremely difficult fire-fighting operations and established First Aid stations, from which they provided health care (burns, respiratory problems, etc.) and relief goods (water, dry food, isotonic drinks, etc.) to firefighters and fire-stricken citizens. A total of 310 highly-trained

volunteers with their specialised equipment served in the fire-fighting operations throughout Greece. Coming from 10 different Regional Branches of the Hellenic Red Cross, they earned the well-deserved recognition of both the State and the public for their extraordinary service.

The volunteers' major contribution to the animals threatened by the fires was also commendable, as they provided them with immediate assistance and moved them to safe areas. Images such as that of a dog rescued from the fiery inferno at Varibobi, as well as the wild animals rescued from various other wildfires, went viral around the globe, raising awareness among the public on the huge ecological disaster that took place.



Chain of love for the relief of the fire victims

The Hellenic Red Cross also provided a significant contribution towards reinforcing and restoring the lives of the fire victims. Immediately realizing the magnitude of the disaster, the HRC issued a call for the gathering of food and funds for those affected. The response was more than touching, as more than 300 tonnes of humanitarian aid were gathered. The

First Aid Station in Varibobi, the Central Warehouse of the HRC in Kolonos, as well as the warehouses of the Regional Branches of the HRC throughout Greece were filled with vast quantities of food and relief goods, which were then transferred to the fire-stricken areas and distributed door-to-door by staff and volunteers.





Offering school supplies to 3,905 schoolchildren in the fire-stricken areas

In view of the new school year, the Hellenic Red Cross organized actions with the aim of supporting all students attending primary (kindergarten and primary schools) and secondary education (secondary schools) in the fire-stricken areas of the Regional Units of Northern Evia, the North-eastern Sector of Athens, Iliia, Arcadia, Laconia and Rhodes.

staffed with social workers headed to these areas, in order to make the school supplies available to the relevant school units, and to offer psychosocial support services.

A total of 3,905 students will benefit from these actions, while the cost will be covered by the financial donations received by the HRC for the support of fire victims.

Specifically, HRC teams



HRH Charles, Prince of Wales supports the efforts of the HRC

The response to the call issued by the Hellenic Red Cross to gather financial support for the country's fire victims was massive and global—both inside and outside Greece—with the amount collected so far exceeding 2.5 million euros. Diaspora, famous stars and foreign celebrities, such as world-renowned model Bella Hadid, spread the mes-

sage of the Hellenic Red Cross around the world.

Indicative of the universal recognition and trust in the work of the HRC towards the fire victims was the fact that HRH Charles, Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the throne of the United Kingdom, deposited a substantial amount to the HRC's financial support bank

account, setting an example so that others may follow. The President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in collaboration with the local Red Crescent, arranged for a vast quantity of humanitarian aid to be sent to the HRC via chartered private aircraft, in order to reinforce its work for the fire victims.



Unboxholics raise 353,293 euros for those affected

Of course, even inside the country, the response to the fundraising was huge and universal, with citizens, companies and organizations constantly aiding the fire victims through the Hellenic Red Cross. Special reference should be made to the huge contribution made by well-

known YouTube Channel Unboxholics, which, within just 24 hours, managed to gather the incredible amount of 353,293.80 euros for the HRC.

During this time, apart from the continuous humanitarian missions, social workers have also been travelling to the

fire-stricken areas on a daily basis, in order to talk to citizens and local authorities, recording the current needs, so that the financial support for the residents, who saw their life's work turned to ash, can be provided through immediate and targeted actions.

Over 210,000 vaccinations carried out by HRC nurses

The President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, immediately responded to the State's call to assist the «Freedom» vaccination program with 62 Nurses at the Mega Vaccination Centre 2 in the Helinikon Fencing Hall, carrying out another difficult

task. The assistance provided by the Nurses is part of the Organization's direct and effective response to the massive vaccination effort, contributing the utmost to the fight against the pandemic by completing more than 206,163 vaccinations. Equally

important was the service volunteers and administrative employees of the HRC provided for the smooth operation of the Vaccination Centre by offering much-needed secretarial support.



Continuous actions in support of homeless people in the midst of a heat wave

The Hellenic Red Cross, due to the extremely high temperatures during July and August, at the initiative of its President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, carried out multiple actions involving a proactive approach towards the homeless, as well as streetwork in Athens and Piraeus. A total of 3 relevant actions were implemented during the two-month

period, which benefited more than 500 homeless people. Specifically, during the course of the action, social workers and volunteers of the HRC distributed parcels with humanitarian aid (personal hygiene articles, essential foodstuff, sleeping bags, etc.), which was procured in its entirety through the sponsorship

of Procter & Gamble. At the same time, the public was provided with temperature screenings and information about the air-conditioned temporary accommodation areas and the measures taken for the assistance and support of the target group by the local authorities, while water and juices were also distributed to passing citizens and visitors.



The Prime Minister of Greece congratulates the HRC for its great contribution to Greek society



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the HRC's booth at the 85th Thessaloniki International Exhibition (11-19 September 2021), in order to congratulate the President and the volunteers of the HRC for their vast contribution, both during the summer wildfires and for their substantial assistance in dealing with the pandemic. The Prime Minister made particular reference to the crucial contribution of the HRC in the fight against the pandemic, both through its participation in the «Freedom» vaccination program and with the numerous actions it has been implementing through-

out Greece, aiming to reduce the spread of the virus (temperature screenings, rapid tests, etc.).

It should be noted that the Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Niki Kerameus, the Minister of Rural Development and Food, Spiros Livanos, the leader of the Opposition, Alexis Tsipras, the Secretary-General for Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty, Giorgos Stamatias, and the Inspector General of Police of Northern Greece, Chief of Staff Konstantinos Skoumas, were among the visitors of the HRC's booth.



Rapid tests at the Kara Tepe Accommodation Centre

Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross made a decisive contribution by conducting rapid-tests at the Migrant/Refugee Reception and Identification Centre of Mytilene, during the period 23-25 July. The Volunteers informed recipients about the

necessity of Covid-19 testing, going from tent to tent and urging them to visit the Hellenic Red Cross team, located in a central part of the centre on a daily basis, for sample tests.

We should note that the HRC has been implementing a

European Commission (DG Sante) programme, in cooperation with the IFRC, funded by the European Union, by conducting rapid tests to vulnerable populations throughout Greece on a daily basis.



German and Austrian Red Cross teams visit Mytilene

Representatives of the German and Austrian Red Cross, accompanied by volunteer Samaritans from the Athens Branch, travelled to Mytilene, in order to be updated by the competent authorities about the latest developments in the refugee-migration situation and to inspect the progress

of the programs they have been funding at the Kara Tepe Accommodation Centre.

During the visit, they held a meeting with the Mayor of Lesvos, Stratis Kytelis, where new collaborations were tabled, aimed at ensuring the best possible living conditions

at the Lesvos RIC. Meanwhile, Mr Kytelis praised the work of the HRC, as the steady and continuous presence of its teams in Lesvos has played a key role in the management of the current migration-refugee crisis.

The HRC provides a huge contribution to the Acropolis Rally

Spectators and drivers of the legendary Acropolis Rally were provided with health coverage throughout the entire length of the route by Volunteers, Samaritans-Rescuers, with the support of the Search and Rescue Team of the HRC, earning the recognition of the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

During the opening ceremony, the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, held a discussion with the President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), Jean Todt, who thanked him for the massive participation of HRC volunteers, which ensured the smooth run of the historic «Rally of the Gods».





Awarding ceremony for students who excelled in the HRC's drawing competition

The awarding ceremony for students who excelled in the Drawing Competition for primary and secondary school students, with the theme «Students and Distance» during the pandemic, organized by the Hellenic Red Cross in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, was held with great success on Saturday, July 3, 2021.

Prominent state and political figures attended the event and warmly saluted the HRC's initiative to organize such a large student competition in the midst of the coronavirus, as well as the effort of the more than 200 students participating, who used their brushes to brighten the gloominess of everyday life created by the pandemic.



Volunteers of the HRC provide crucial aid to a child's serious injury in Patras

The Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross, who provided health coverage during the 13th P.I.C.K. Patras on the weekend of 18-19 September, immediately and effectively intervened when a child

was seriously injured, after a violent collision when a go-kart veered off course and crashed where the unlucky 6-year-old was standing. The child's immediate immobilization on a special stretcher and the provision of the

necessary first aid, as well as the administration of oxygen by the volunteers of the HRC who rushed to the spot, were crucial for the course of the young boy's health.



Memorandum of Cooperation with "The Smile of the Child" Organization

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on Thursday, July 29, 2021, between the President of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the President of the

Board of Directors of «The Smile of the Child» Organization, Kostas Giannopoulos. By signing the Memorandum, the two sides agreed to launch a joint effort to develop strong and credible pre-

vention and immediate intervention mechanisms in cases of children at risk and to reinforce the procedures for raising awareness and informing the public about emergencies and disappearances.



The HRC strengthens the work of the Aegean Team in the border islands

On Wednesday, September 2, 2021, the President of the civil non-profit company, Aegean Team, Denise Tsimis, met with the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avge-

rinou. The meeting, which took place in an excellent atmosphere, led to the decision for a cooperation with the aim of strengthening the populations living on the border islands of

Greece. As part of the forthcoming cooperation, the Hellenic Red Cross will undertake to train island residents in first aid and to potentially provide primary health coverage.

Dynamic presence of the Hellenic Red Cross at this year's Super Cup

The Hellenic Red Cross promptly responded to the request of the Greek Basketball League (E.S.A.K.E.) by providing its valuable services during the two-day celebration of Greek Basketball (2nd HNC Coin Super Cup) held in Patras (25-26 September), that was combined with the mass

return of fans to the stadiums. The HRC's role in this year's Super Cup was twofold. It provided health coverage to spectators that attended the four leading sports competitions, while specially-trained teams of HRC Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers

held a First Aid demonstration during the intermission, aimed at informing the public about the importance of First Aid in emergency situations and everyday life. Meanwhile, they also held first aid seminars for young athletes, aged 6 to 15, from the Promitheas Patras BC academies.





The HRC stands by the earthquake victims of Crete

Immediately after the 5.8 Richter earthquake struck Crete on Monday, September 27, 2021, causing serious damage to more than 1,000 buildings, the Hellenic Red Cross sent teams of Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers from the Regional Branches of the Hellenic Red Cross in Rethymno, Agios Nikolaos, Chania, Kissamos, Heraklion and Moires, to offer their services where needed and to

help set up tents for the earthquake victims. At the same time, a large quantity of humanitarian aid was sent from Athens (blankets, tents, long shelf life food, etc.) to help residents whose homes had been partially or totally destroyed.

The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, visited the earthquake-stricken areas of Crete the next day, in order to be fully updated by

local authorities on the magnitude of the destruction and to coordinate the actions of the volunteers for the relief of the victims. During his visit, he had the opportunity to talk with Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, who congratulated him on the immediate and crucial contribution of the volunteers in the earthquake-stricken areas.



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