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# Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED

## Message from the HRC President

Since the beginning of the tragic events in Ukraine, the Hellenic Red Cross, in constant contact and cooperation with the Ukrainian Red Cross, has responded decisively and effectively in support of the suffering citizens of Ukraine.

In the first month of hostilities in Ukraine, the HRC, with the appropriate logistical equipment at its disposal, sent 100 tons of humanitarian aid (long shelf life food, medical supplies, medicine, electric generators, etc.), as well as substantial financial aid to the Ukrainian Red Cross, to be immediately made available to the citizens. At the same time, since the first days of the outbreak of the major humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the HRC set up a Mobile Health Unit, staffed by professional nurses and Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers, at the Ukraine-Romania border (Siret), with the purpose of providing primary health care to displaced Ukrainians. All of the above could not have been possible on such a large scale without the enormous response of the people.

**We would like to express our warmest thanks to the Greek people for their immediate humanitarian, altruistic and touching response to our call for aid, establishing the HRC as the main recipient of love and solidarity towards the victims of the devastating war. We are determined to continue to provide all kinds of humanitarian aid to those affected even after the end of the war, as prescribed by the Red Cross ideals and the firm commitment of the Hellenic Red Cross to**



**the international humanitarian principles it has upheld and defended since 1877.**

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,

The President of the HRC

*Dr. Antonios Argerimos*

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



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## The Hellenic Red Cross assists those affected by the war in Ukraine

The Hellenic Red Cross, from the outset of the major humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine and in constant contact and cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Ukrainian Red Cross, has taken a series of steps to alleviate the suffering in Ukraine.

Specifically, since the outbreak of hostilities in Ukraine, the HRC, with the support of its 86 Regional Branches throughout Greece, has contributed with the following:

1. An immediate call to finan-

cially support the Ukrainian victims. The sums raised through the people's kindness have already been offered to the Ukrainian Red Cross.

2. A direct call for the collection of food and humanitarian aid. The people's response has been, and remains, deeply moving. Citizens, companies and organizations from all over Greece have provided hundreds of tons of food, relief goods and medical supplies to help the war-affected citizens of Ukraine.

3. A call to provide accommodation for the displaced Ukrainians coming to Greece. The HRC, immediately aware

of the huge needs to house the displaced Ukrainians who started arriving in our country, and in full consultation with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, began documenting the requests by our fellow citizens offering to accommodate the people who lost everything to the war.

4. The dispatch of 100 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. In March, the HRC successfully sent three humanitarian missions to Ukraine, transporting large quantities of humanitarian aid (food, long self-life foods, blankets, medical supplies, electric generators, etc.) to Chernivtsi, Ukraine, in order to be immediately



made available to the citizens by the Ukrainian Red Cross.

5. The HRC immediately set up a Mobile Health Unit at the Ukrainian-Romanian border (Siret), staffed by registered nurses, who provide Primary Health Care to an average of 50-60 Ukrainians passing

through Romania. There is also a rescue vehicle of the HRC in the same location, with a team of Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers, ready to provide rescue assistance to displaced Ukrainian citizens. As a matter of fact, the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red

Crescent Societies, Francesco Rocca, visited the HRC Mobile Unit and congratulated the volunteers and the staff of the HRC for the vast humanitarian aid they are providing to the war victims, as well as for the substantial humanitarian aid sent by the HRC to the Ukrainian Red Cross.



# The Hellenic Red Cross provides huge contribution in tackling the "Elpis" extreme weather front

The HRC was mobilized immediately and effectively when called to deal with the unprecedented snowstorm «Elpis», which caused enormous problems in the movement of citizens throughout Attica. Specifically, from the first hours of the occurrence of extreme weather events (24/1), the HRC, on the initiative of its President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, and through its «Help at Home» service, undertook to handle all necessary transportation of elderly people, people with mobility problems and isolated people within the broader region of Athens, as

well as their transport to and from the vaccination centres in the prefecture of Attica. This action provided valuable support to citizens suffering from chronic diseases (cancer patients, kidney patients, etc.), who had to be transported to medical centres for their treatment in the midst of heavy snowfall and frost.

Meanwhile, the tireless Volunteers Samaritans - Rescuers of the HRC took to the streets of Attica, recruiting rescue vehicles and the HRC's special snow mobile, in order to approach houses

in areas that were snowed in, offering all kinds of assistance to citizens who were forced to deal with extremely low temperatures due to the continuous power outages.

The Hellenic Red Cross also provided significant contribution to the emergency situation that arose when hundreds of drivers were stranded on Attiki Odos due to the heavy snowfall. HRC teams delivered 1,000 blankets to the Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, which were immediately made available to the drivers who were snowed in.



## The HRC stands by the homeless in Athens and Piraeus during the "Diomedes" weather front

The Hellenic Red Cross offered a «warm hug» to the homeless who were severely affected by the «Diomedes» weather front, carrying out active streetwork in Athens and Piraeus on Thursday, 13 January 2021.

Specifically, social workers and volunteers of the HRC came to the aid of the home-

less living in conditions of social exclusion in the historical centre of Athens (Thiseio, Monastiraki, Omonoia) and the port of Piraeus, handing out blankets, beanies, gloves, hot beverages, chocolates, rusks, biscuits and other dry food, personal hygiene articles, essential foodstuff, clothing, as well as personal protective equipment against Covid-19.

At the same time, they also offered First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, as well as information about the heated areas available by the Municipalities.

We should also note that another 35 similar actions are planned up to the end of April 2022, which will provide relief for an estimated 3,500 vulnerable people.



## Emergency action in support of the homeless in Piraeus, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis

On Saturday (22/1), the Hellenic Red Cross stood by homeless who were affected by the «Elpida» weather front and the extremely low temperatures that accompanied it, carrying out emergen-

cy streetwork for the homeless in the port of Piraeus. The action of the Hellenic Red Cross was honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Kyriakos

Mitsotakis, who congratulated President Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the volunteers on their vast humanitarian work for the country's vulnerable population groups.



## Pandemic: The Hellenic Red Cross ensures the smooth functioning of schools

The contribution of the HRC in the fight against the pandemic has been crucial, playing an active role in all efforts of the State to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Meanwhile, the HRC, with its specialized nursing staff, responded promptly

and effectively to all appeals received from Municipalities in Attica where high levels of the virus were detected in schools.

In particular, during January-March 2022, the HRC carried out free rapid tests on stu-

dents, teachers and citizens of the Municipalities of Ilioupoli, Heraklion, Attica, Palaio-Faliro and Dafni-Ymittos, in order to ensure the smooth conduct of school lessons.



## The Hellenic Red Cross donates a large quantity of Rapid and PCR Tests to the Ministry of Health

The Hellenic Red Cross, always supporting the Hellenic Republic and on the initiative of its President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, donated a substantial quantity of Rapid and PCR tests to the Ministry of Health, with the purpose of making

them immediately available to the National Public Health Organization (EODY) to cover the needs of the Greek society.

Specifically, on Monday, 17 January 2022, the HRC delivered 87,700 rapid antigen

tests, worth 499,726 euros, and 3,450 PCR tests, worth 3,450 euros, to the EODY teams, reinforcing the State's difficult task of constantly screening citizens in the battle to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

## A resounding presence at the parade for the celebration of March 25th

The Hellenic Red Cross once again opened the grand military parade in Athens in celebration of the anniversary of the Greek Independence Day, 25 March 1821, filling all Red Crossers with emotion and pride, as they give their very best each and every day to offer help to those in need.

The Hellenic Red Cross, the oldest humanitarian organization in the country, marched with staff and volunteers from all three sectors (Nurs-

ing, Social Welfare, Samaritan Rescuers & Lifeguards), earning the warm applause of officials and the public who found themselves in Syntagma Square to honour the National Anniversary.

On the anniversary of 25 March 1821, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, said: «The struggles and actions of the Hellenic Red Cross, the oldest humanitarian and volunteer organization in our country,

*founded in 1877, stem from the depths of Greek history and unwaveringly and decisively follow the landmark events of the nation's course. Today, in times of peace and increased humanitarian challenges, the Hellenic Red Cross, in the same ground-breaking and glorious manner, continues to put forward the protection of human life and dignity, passionately uniting people's efforts in the fight against pain and suffering».*



## Meeting between the President of the HRC and the Minister of Finance, Mr. Christos Staikouras

A highly constructive and productive discussion was held on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, between the Minister of Finance, Christos Staikouras, and the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.

During the meeting, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross analysed the huge and multidimensional humanitarian

work carried out by the Organization for the Greek society, focusing both on the participation of the HRC in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and on the actions in support of the country's vulnerable population groups that have been severely affected by its consequences.

The Minister listened with great interest to the President

of the HRC, while expressing his strong support—to the extent possible—for the Organization's numerous humanitarian actions. He also thanked the tireless volunteers of the HRC for their immense and timeless contribution to vulnerable groups.

## Memorandum of cooperation with the PFS and the IDEEAF for the training of pharmacists in First Aid



A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on Thursday, 3 February 2022, between the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), the Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association (PFS) and the Institute of Lifelong Learning & Professional Development of Pharmacists (IDEEAF), aiming to familiarize the country's

pharmacists with First Aid.

The Memorandum of Cooperation provides for the organisation of Training Seminars for pharmacists specifically for the pharmacy area, by specialized instructors of the HRC, with the purpose of acquiring certified knowledge of

First Aid services. This action is expected to start immediately and will last until December 2023, while the seminars will have a duration of 18 hours and will be conducted by the local Pharmaceutical Associations, following the relevant planning.



## Honorary award given to the President of the HRC by the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Mr. Notis Mitarakis

On Wednesday, 16 February 2022, at a modest ceremony held in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum, Minister Mr. Notis Mitarakis, awarded the «Commendation Medal for Migratory Assistance of the Second Order» to the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, for the Organization's immense contribution towards addressing the migration issue over the last years. During his speech, on Mon-

day, 2 November 2020, the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Mr. Notis Mitarakis, pointed out that: "The President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, stands by our side on every difficulty. The HRC responded with great speed and efficiency to every challenge. From the management of needs in accommodation centres, to the extraordinary and exceptionally difficult conditions in Mavrovouni—following the arson of Moria—and the ship-

wreck off the island of Tzia. Working together on the basis of a Memorandum of Cooperation, with multiple benefits for our Ministry. The contribution of the oldest and largest humanitarian organization in Greece since the beginning of the migration crisis is particularly important. It has been present during all the important events that marked the migration issue in our country».

## Olympic Gold medallist Lefteris Petrounias becomes "Messenger" of the Youth of the Hellenic Red Cross

The Hellenic Red Cross, as part of its efforts to strengthen the volunteer spirit, joins forces with Greek Olympic gold medallist, Lefteris Petrounias, an example of willpower, fighting spirit, ethos and form, who will become the «messenger» that will spread the message of love and solidarity to young children, tomorrow's volun-

teers. His role involves raising awareness and mobilising the public on issues related to volunteering, humanism and social contribution, especially among the youth, who are the future of the Hellenic Red Cross. At the same time, the HRC invites parents to encourage their children to join the great Red Cross family,

giving them the opportunity to learn through interactive and innovative actions implemented by the specialized staff of the HRC, the supreme values of humanism, social solidarity, love for the environment and animals, but also voluntary service without limits or discrimination.



## The Hellenic Red Cross creates the Youth Music Ensemble of its Youth Sector

The first public performance of the Youth Music Ensemble of the Youth Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross took place on Saturday, 19 February 2022, in one of the main areas of Ermou Street, in the center of Athens. The volunteers of the Youth Sector offered a musical journey with classic Greek and

foreign songs, which earned them a warm applause from the audience.

The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, after attending the first performance of the newly established music ensemble of the HRC, said: «The outstanding high school

students of the Youth Sector of the HRC are our hope for the young volunteers we want to have, demonstrating ethos and form, fair play, teamwork and collectivity in the reborn Hellenic Red Cross. Through their work and actions, we want them to be our society's pride and joy».

# The Hellenic Red Cross holds First Aid Demonstrations at all Stoiximan Basket League stadiums

Trainers Samaritans - Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross, along with teams of volunteers from the HRC, held First Aid demonstrations (choking, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, etc.) during the half-

times of all Stoiximan Basket League sports events throughout Greece, earning the warm applause of the fans who watched with great interest. The action was carried out un-

der the HRC's Memorandum of Cooperation with ESAKE, aiming to inform and raise awareness about the necessity and enormous importance of the proper knowledge of First Aid.



# Professional basketball players Nikos Pappas, Giannoulis Larentzakis and Lefteris Bochoridis call for First Aid courses

The HRC and ESAKE, with the valuable contribution of top Greek basketball athletes, including Giannoulis Larentzakis (Olympiacos), Lefteris Bochoridis (Panathinaikos) and Nikos Pappas (AEK), sent a

strong message with the aim of raising awareness about the need for proper knowledge of First Aid, which can save a life in danger, while encouraging people to learn First Aid alongside the leading trainers

Samaritans - Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross. It should be noted that the video created by the HRC in cooperation with ESAKE got thousands of views on Social Media.





## The HRC supports domestic animals abandoned during the summer fires

On Saturday, 22 January 2022, the Hellenic Red Cross carried out a major action in support of domestic animals that had been abandoned or seriously injured during the devastating summer fires and are temporarily housed at a farm located in Koropi.

In particular, a large team of volunteer Samaritans - Rescuers of the HRC visited the

farm owned by Mr. Nektarios Papazacharias in Koropi, in order to deliver a large quantity of animal feed to cover the increased needs of the domestic animals (horses, dogs, cats) accommodated there. The volunteers also took our four-legged friends on much-needed walks, offering them precious moments of joy and socialization.





ΔΙΝΟΝΤΑΣ ΑΙΜΑ ΧΑΡΙΖΩ ΖΩΗ

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