

COVID-19 in GREECE




RED CROSS MOVEMENT RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS


The worldwide spread of COVID-19 has impacted the lives, health and livelihoods of millions of people around the world. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in Greece, the Red Cross Movement has been providing critical support to communities during these difficult times. Our teams have been working tirelessly to provide essential aid and services to the most vulnerable members of society.


How did we respond so far

The **Hellenic Red Cross (HRC)**, in an effort to meet the increased health needs of the population in the reception centers in Malakasa and Serres, is operating a general clinic daily and a paediatric clinic and nursing station twice a week for the monitoring of patients with chronic diseases.


 A total of **3,500** primary health care consultations were provided by HRC Mobile Health Units to **2,110** vulnerable people. More than **2,000** hygiene kits, containing personal cleaning products and baby diapers were distributed at the reception centers of Serres and Malakasa.

Around **300** health education and hygiene promotion activities were implemented through the HRC Mobile Health Units in the reception centers in Malakasa and Serres.

 The HRC, through its Multifunctional Center for Refugees in Athens, operates a telephone helpline in **12** languages offering information on COVID-19. Since the beginning of March 2020, the helpline received **3,220** calls, of which more than **1,000** were COVID-19-related medical assistance requests.

 With the aim of supporting the public health system, disinfectants and personal protective equipment (including **4,000** gloves and surgical masks) were distributed to hospitals in the Prefecture of Attica.

The HRC has also supported general hospitals on the Greek mainland to organise voluntary blood donations in an effort to cover the increasing demands for blood and blood products.

 The HRC, through its Educational Health Stations in Athens, has provided health services to approximately **800** people. In addition, HRC volunteers distributed food, medicines and hygiene items to the elderly and the homeless.





The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** has launched a global Emergency Appeal for **550** million Swiss francs to support the Hellenic Red Cross and other national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in their response activities to support the world's most vulnerable populations who are at high-risk of COVID-19.

In addition, the IFRC has launched a multi-country emergency appeal for **20** million Swiss francs to support the Hellenic Red Cross and other national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies affected by the recent increase in population movement.

IFRC is supporting the Hellenic Red Cross to scale up its COVID-19 response through its mobile health units, hygiene promotion and distribution of hygiene kits, and the procurement of personal protective equipment for Red Cross personnel. It is also providing infographics, social media assets and audio-visual materials that have been translated into multiple languages.



The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)**, from early on in the pandemic of COVID-19 initiated a dialogue with the relevant authorities to understand their response. With the aim of supporting the detaining authorities to maintain acceptable hygiene conditions, more than **17,000** soap bars, **5,000** liters of liquid soap and **2,500** liters of bleach were provided to **10** places of administrative detention (PRCs and police stations) where migrants are being held.

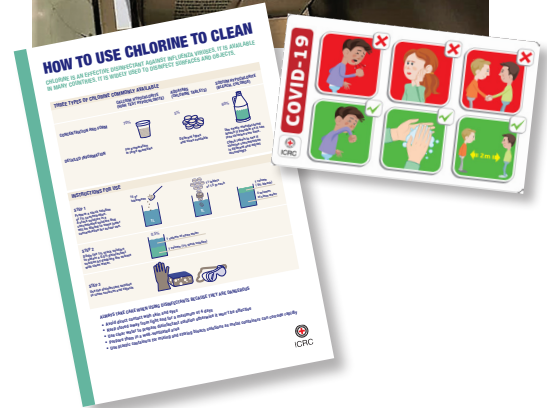
The hygiene materials were complemented by **1,050** stickers with visuals on COVID-19 preventive measures to overcome language barriers.



To ensure detained migrants could keep in contact with their loved ones, in this time of additional worry and uncertainty, **1,600** phone cards were provided to the same detention centers.



AMEY health personnel working in administrative detention, and some Ministry of Health staff, were supported with **500** liters of sanitizer, **5,500** surgical masks and **1,800** FFP2 masks, around **40,000** pieces of personal protective equipment (composed of protective overshoes, gloves, glasses, gowns and coveralls) to enable them to carry out their functions during the pandemic. In addition to the donation, the ICRC offered regular advice and support to the health teams working in detention.



What is next

Our COVID-19 response operation is ongoing and we are also preparing for the next phase: helping to stop the further spread of the virus but also dealing with the secondary impact on vulnerable groups.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consists of three components:

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, including the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC)



Hellenic
Red Cross



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



ICRC
International Committee
of the Red Cross