PRESS RELEASE <u>The Rescue Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross</u> <u>are in the First Line of Providing Aid</u> <u>to the affected people by the earthquake in Ilea.</u>

The Hellenic Red Cross is always ready to act whenever there are people in need. 152 volunteers of highly trained and fully equipped Search & Rescue Team of the Hellenic Red Cross, once more were present with the sense of responsibility and sacrifice, supporting the efforts of emergency response and civil protection in order to help the affected people by the severe earthquake of 8th June in the Ilea area.

The Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross are the biggest volunteer corps in Greece and took action as usual, from the very first moment. Therefore, shortly after the earthquake of 6,5 R, 3 groups of 24 rescuers each, were mobilized immediately, developed and operated in the southern suburb of Patras, in the K. Achaias and in the Fostaina.

Always in collaboration with the appropriate authorities, the Volunteers of the Red Cross were undertaken immediately and effectively. Under the guidance of The Fire Brigade, The Civil Protection Service and the General Secretary of the Region of Western Greece, they were responsible for needs assessment, shelter development, food distribution, transport of injured people, evacuations of apartment blocks and houses.

Additionally, 80 more rescuers from Kalamata, Pirgos, Nafplio, Amaliada, Piraeus, N.Smirni and Patras were mobilized, under the President's of the Hellenic Red Cross orders in order to provide the best possible assistance and support in quality and quantity terms to the affected people.

We should also highlight the contribution of Rescue Volunteers from Israel, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Albania who happened to be in Patras in order to attend the training of the Hellenic Red Cross in the management of inter-border crises disaster response. The Volunteers offered their help without second thought, whenever and wherever it was needed, providing their tangible worldwide commitment.

The Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross motivated by their love for affected people, are always ready to provide their help, support and comfort. In any case of emergency and with the valuable collective mobilization of Greek society, the Volunteers operate indefatigably and effectively. Therefore, as long as there are people in need there will always be people to provide aid.