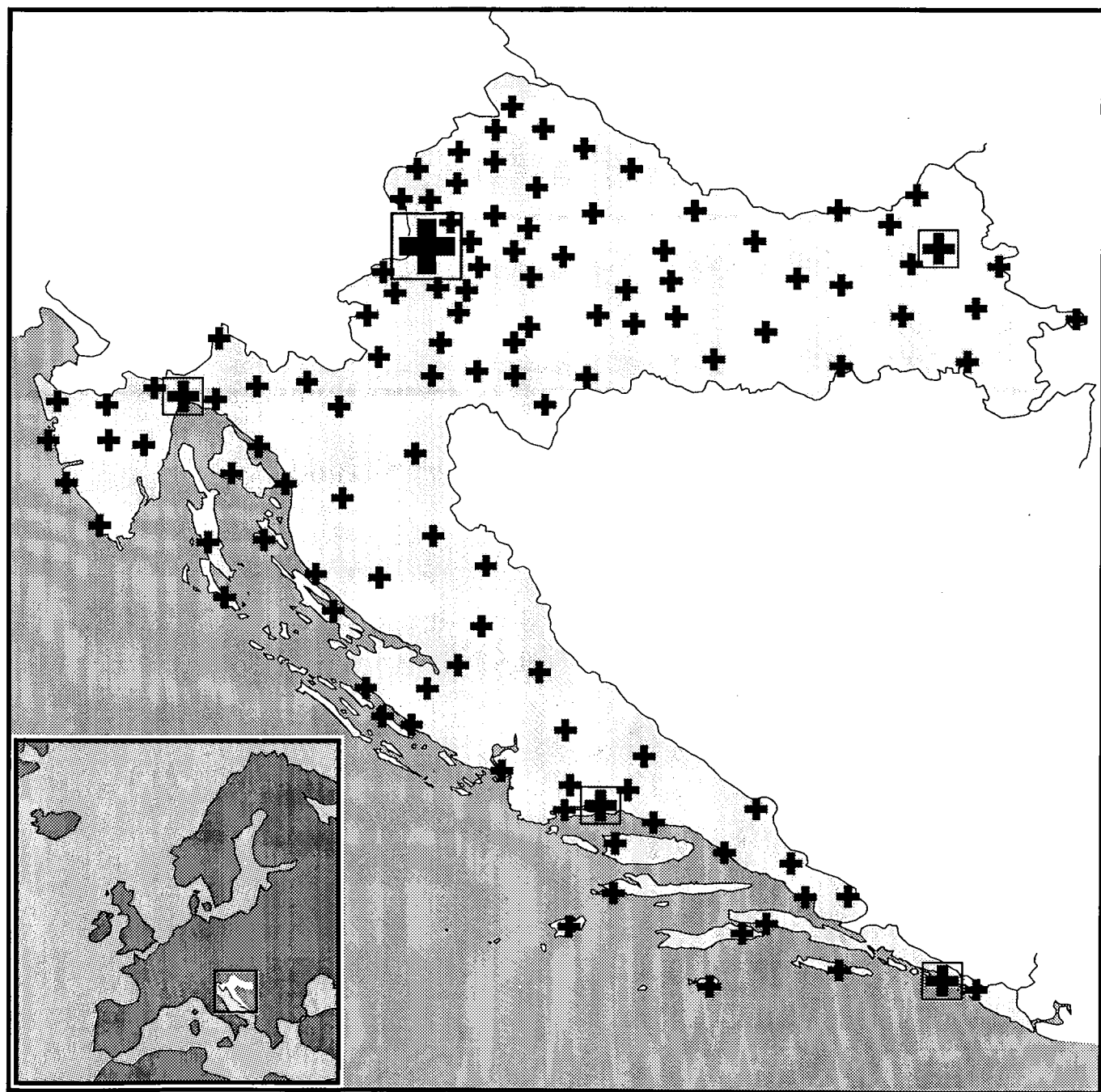


**CROATIAN
RED CROSS**



Croatian Red Cross has been deeply involved in the turbulent course of events in this part of Europe. Since its establishment in 1878 as a part of Austrian Red Cross, until today, Croatian Red Cross has been developing humanitarian activities based on the principles of the International Red Cross Movement, spreading among the population of Croatia the noble ideas of Henry Dunant. The long tradition of humanitarian activities has become most evident in difficult times of war. Although troubled and impoverished themselves, people have shown full understanding for their compatriots in need and unselfishly given enormous aid to hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons. The International Red Cross Movement led by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies got fully involved in all aspects of humanitarian relief. Humanity stood a test of time.

Chronology of Independence

Croatian Red Cross used to be a part of the Yugoslav Red Cross and, like all other national institutions, it got independent very soon. The first step was a meeting with the International Red Cross representatives on August 13th 1991, when the possibilities for the Croatian Red Cross to get international humanitarian relief directly were first discussed. The idea was very soon accepted by the International Committee - on August 22nd

1991, and since then first relief shipments have started coming to Croatia. On October 11th 1991, only two days after the declaration of sovereignty and independence by the Croatian Parliament, the Croatian Red Cross decided to withdraw from the Yugoslav Red Cross. The Bill of the Croatian Red Cross was passed on November 19th 1991 by the Croatian Parliament, thus regulating its status, and the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols were accepted by succession on April 22nd 1992 by the Croatian Government.

The Croatian Red Cross Assembly got its Statute on April 29th 1992. That was the end of the legal procedures necessary for the recognition of the Croatian Red Cross as an independent national association, and all the documents were put to the Joint Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Joint Commission supported Croatian appeal for admission as full member of the movement on its autumn Meeting. The final decision was made by the International Committee of the Red Cross Assembly on August 25th 1993.

Organisation and Membership

The Croatian Red Cross has a wide membership — 1.096.629 inhabitants of Croatia, out of a total 4.700.000 population, are members

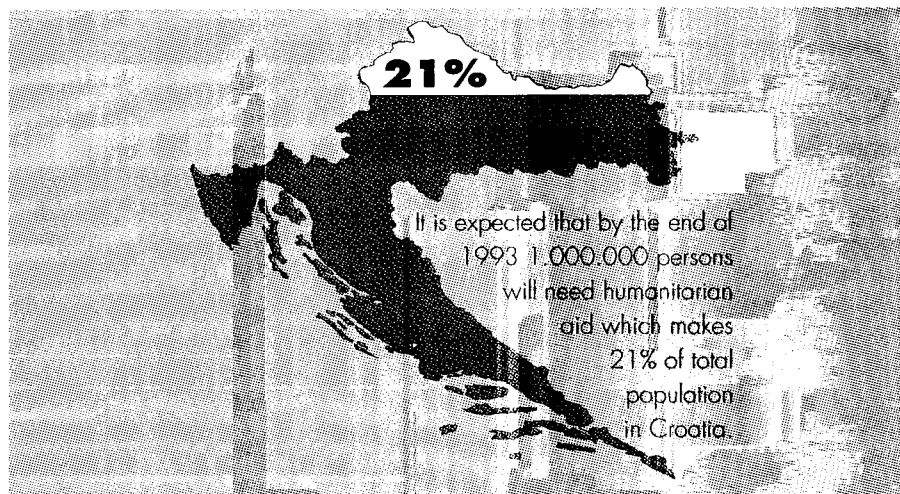
of the CRC. There are 433.520 adult members, 512.404 young people and 150.705 volunteer blood donors. The war has not affected the membership, although it has severely endangered and even blocked the activities of some local organisations in the UNPA zones. However, the Red Cross activists from those parts of the country continued their activities in other regions. The new organisation of the CRC was set up on the Assembly held on November 30th 1992. The Red Cross Assembly is the highest body and its members are elected for a 4-year term of office. It acts together with the Board and the Presidency as collective executive bodies. The Assembly elects the President and two Vice-Presidents who perform their honorary duties on a voluntary basis. The Secretary of the CRC is a full-time employee who manages and coordinates all the activities of the CRC and is in charge of development plans along the lines of the general CRC policy. Organisation of municipality organisations is under way as they are being adjusted to the new Act of Regions, Towns and Municipalities in the Republic of Croatia, as well as to the Act of Local Self-Government and Administration, and will be in keeping with the organisation of local administrative bodies. The present system works on a network basis of local Red Crosses, namely 4.309 basic organisations, 2.245 local community organisations, 101 municipality organisations and 1 organisation of the city of Zagreb with 15 local branches. All of them make up a united organisation of the Croatian Red Cross with Headquarters in Zagreb.

Humanitarian relief

Due to extremely difficult war conditions, care for a large number of refugees and displaced persons who need help with accommodation, food, clothes, hygienic and medical supplies has become the most important issue of the CRC. According to the Croatian Government Decree, displaced persons are those who were driven away from their homes from one part of the country to another, while refugees are those who fled to another country.

According to the information provided by the Government Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees (September 15th 1993), there are 246.056 displaced and 278.516 refugees in Croatia, together with approximately 180.000 persons on welfare, which rounds up to 704.572 persons who need help. The data of September 1993 show that a total number of 555.875 persons have received humanitarian aid from the Croatian Red Cross.

The Government Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees provides food for refugees and the displaced in relief centres (about 20% of the total number), while CRC distributes aid to refugees and the displaced accommodated with families (80% of the total number), as well as to persons who live on welfare. Among the 555.875 persons helped by the CRC, 37% are displaced persons, 32% are refugees and 28% welfare cases. Also, 28% of the CRC aid users are people who managed to return to their homes and now need help.



It is an enormous number of people and an enormous help in food and hygienic supplies necessary to meet the basic needs of all those people in trouble. Humanitarian relief is coming from all over the world and is distributed from 5 regional CRC warehouses in Dubrovnik, Osijek, Rijeka, Split and Zagreb.

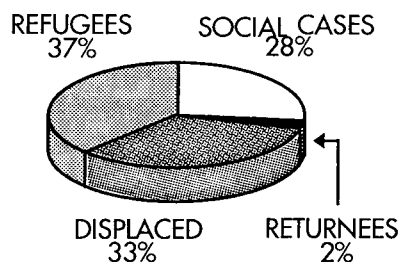
The CRC distributes aid in 86 MRCO and the Zagreb RC organisation. They have 473 distribution centres together, and besides professional workers there are 1500 volunteers involved in receiving, re-packing and distributing humanitarian relief to end users. Users pick up humanitarian aid once a month, which is recorded on special MRCO cards.

Logistics of the CRC (together with IFRC) are a link between the MRCO and regional offices and warehouses. They regularly visit MRCO and their warehouses and, according to the information of the number of persons who need assistance, the current situation in municipalities and regional warehouses, direct donations of MRCO and announced donors to regional warehouses, draw monthly distribution plans and reports.

A CRC family package for a 4-member family should contain 24.5 kg of food and 5 kg of hygienic supplies:

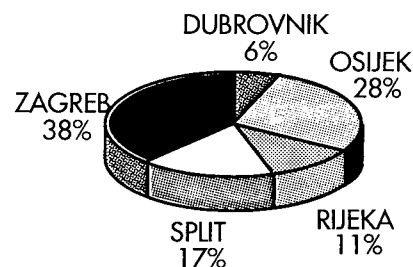
FOOD	HYGIENIC SUPPLIES
4 l oil	3 kg washing powder
4 kg sugar	4 bars of soap
2 kg meat cans	2 toothpastes
2 kg fish cans	4 packets of toilet paper
1 kg salt	1 l liquid dish detergent
2 kg pasta	
2 kg rice	
1 kg spread	
1 kg powder milk	
2 kg vegetables	
2 kg flour	

CRC BENEFICIARIES



According to the above, monthly needs of food for 700.000 displaced persons, refugees and welfare persons comes up to 4.550 tons, i.e. 420.000 l of oil, 2.949.000 kg of carbohydrates (sugar, pasta, rice, flour and canned vegetables), 840.000 kg of protein (meat and fish cans, powder milk and spread), and 350.000 kg of salt (0.5 kg per person per month). Such a package provides only 200 g of food per person daily, which is at the lowest level of nutritional needs. A 200 g-meal a day contains 20 g of fat

CRC BENEFICIARIES PER REGION



at 9 cal/g, which makes 180 cal; 140 g of carbohydrates at 4 cal/g or 560 cal and 40 g of proteins at 4 cal/g, i.e. 160 cal. The Republic Institute for Health Protection has made an analysis of the CRC family package, which showed that the package provides only 838 kcal per person daily, and, unfortunately, the CRC was not able to satisfy even that low standard for the most part of this year. The IRCC and IFRC standard is 2000 kcal per person a day, which means that the CRC should raise the family package



standard by 1362 kcal per person a day.

The rising economic difficulties caused the number of unemployed people to reach almost 300.000, and it is to be expected that these people will need social protection as well. The Ministry of Work and Welfare is still in the process of issuing social cards which are estimated to reach the number of 400.000 by the end of the year.

Thus, the number of people in Croatia who will need help by the end of 1993 comes up to 954.752: refugees and displaced persons in relief centres and families, people who have returned to their homes and welfare persons. If we wish to give a little more food to the people in need than the critical 200 g a day, let us say 350 g a day, then we need 630.000 l of oil, 5.460.000 kg of carbohydrates, 1.200.000 kg of proteins and 350.000 kg of salt for 700.000 persons.

Since the CRC will soon be faced with almost one million people who have no food, monthly needs will be 900.000 l of oil, 7.800.000 kg of carbohydrates, 1.800.000 kg of protein and 500.000 kg of salt. In other words, monthly needs in food for one million people on the basis of 200g a day means that we require 6.550 tons per month, and if we want 350 g a day, the number is 11.000 tons of food per month.

In the first 9 months of 1993 14,500 tons of food arrived to the regional CRC warehouses, which is far below the required quantity. MRCO can currently satisfy the needs of 17-70% family package standard, depend-



ing on the region, direct private donations and occasional shipments from the European Community to MRCOs. It goes without saying that a considerably larger humanitarian aid from the world is more than necessary. In 1993 the CRC has distributed humanitarian relief collected in special campaigns organised by certain humanitarian organisations and national RC associations such as: Austrian RC campaign and Caritas "Neighbour in Need", food from the American RC, hygienic packages from the German and French RC, baby packages from the Swiss and American RC, food by the UNHCR

and the "World Food Programme", hygienic packages from the humanitarian organisation "Equilibre" and food and hygienic supplies collected by the British Red Cross and "Challenge Anneka" in the course of which a primary school in Pakrac was renovated in only 5 days.

An enormous number of people and great help in food and hygienic supplies is necessary in order to meet the basic needs of all those in trouble.

The whole programme of reception and distribution of the humanitarian relief is being successfully performed by the CRC owing to its own car park

for macro and micro distribution. In 1993 UNHCR has donated 7 vans 28 pick-ups and 7 trucks to the CRC for the purpose of humanitarian relief distribution.

Abbreviations

CRC	Croatian Red Cross
MRCO	Municipal Red Cross Organisation
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

National Societies

Together with its primary concern for satisfying the needs in food, clothes, footwear and blankets for the displaced and refugees in family accommodation, the Croatian Red

Cross has also tried to help, as much as it could, those accommodated in relief centres, especially when it comes to hygienic supplies and care for the children. Special attention has been paid to the sick and the wounded. There were regular visits to the wounded in hospitals and rehabilitation centres all over the country, and health institutions and patients have received drugs, medical supplies, facilities and aids, and supplies for personal hygiene.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The world has shown solidarity with the people suffering in Croatia and since the very beginning of the war great humanitarian aid has been coming to Croatia and it has grown into one of the largest operations the world humanitarian organisations have had since World War II. The Croatian Red Cross has sent 88 appeals, protests and urgent calls for

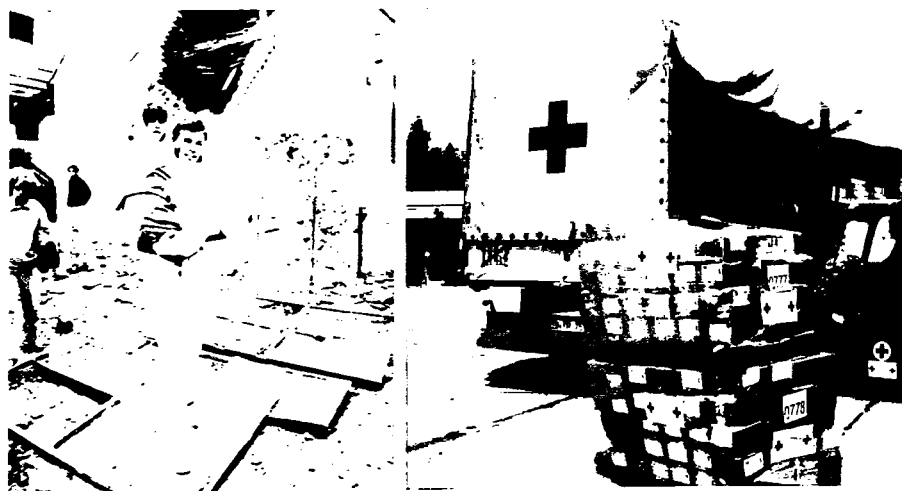
help to international humanitarian organisations, specialised UN organisations, presidents of states, heads of governments, the European Community, the European Parliament and to many eminent individuals all over the world. Until 1993, about 300 different visits were paid to Croatia by representatives of national Red Cross organisations at the highest level, as well as by representatives of different international humanitarian organisations and governments.

The results of these wide scale international activities can be seen in the considerable international concern and humanitarian relief that has come to Croatia.

Activities of international humanitarian organisations in Croatia date from June 1991, when the International Committee of the Red Cross became actively involved. Its main range of activities include: mediation in setting up the Joint Commission for tracing missing and killed persons; collaboration with tracing services; visits to prisoners; repatriations; humanitarian aid to the areas of conflict; dissemination of the basic principles of the Red Cross among the population and the respect of the Geneva Conventions among the soldiers.

The headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation is in Zagreb, an important logistic centre is in Split, and in former Yugoslavia there are 19 sub-delegations with about 200 delegates and more than 500 local assistants. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been active since December 1991.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent delegation



started their activities in Croatia in July 1992 and since then it has been involved in many fruitful and varied activities. Their basic task is coordination of relief sent by national societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations and organisational and technical aid to the Croatian Red Cross. The Federation delegation headquarters are in Zagreb, their sub-delegation is in Split, and it takes care of the logistic support and the distribution of humanitarian aid in the distribution centres in collaboration with the Croatian Red Cross.

A very important feature is bi-lateral cooperation with national Red Cross societies, especially with the Austrian Red Cross which was among the first to offer help and which later delivered considerable aid through "Nachbar in Not" and "Kinder in Not" campaigns. The German Red Cross has been active through its delegation in Zagreb in providing shelter for the displaced and the refugees, distributing food and building up a settlement in Gašinci.

The Danish Red Cross has built a very functional settlement for the displaced in Kutina and the Dutch Red Cross has done the same in Gašinci. It should also be stressed that Hungary, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria and other countries have offered great help in accommodating the displaced and refugees in their own countries.

In September 1993 there were 172 non-government humanitarian organisations whose work was coordinated by the International Committee for Volunteer Associations (ICVA). Their activities varied in range and possibilities but one thing they all had in common was a strong desire to help people in trouble.



TRACING SERVICE

Since the beginning of the war in Slovenia and later in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tracing Service has become one of the most important and most comprehensive activities of the Croatian Red Cross. In the whirlpool of the cruel war people get lost, they run away, they are being expelled from their homes and displaced, fami-

lies are torn apart, information is sought about the missing, killed, imprisoned persons, the wounded and the dead.

The National Tracing Service Office has received and processed over 15.000 appeals for tracing missing persons. Taking into consideration a certain number of successfully completed tracing requests, as well as a number of exchanged prisoners of war, the number of appeals has been reduced and currently comes to 11.701.

Unfortunately, the opposite side does not supply information and thousands of inquiries and official tracing requests have remained unanswered for two years already. Inquiries about the fates of the wounded in Vukovar and the hospital staff there, as well as numerous helpless civilians from Ilok, Dalj, Glinja, Petrinja, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Drniš, Škabrnja, Lovas and many other occupied towns, are still like open wounds. Where are they? Are they dead, imprisoned?

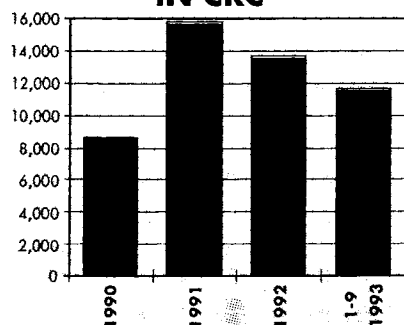
During 1992, the Service received and distributed 167.380 family messages, and in the first six months of

1993 the number of distributed messages has been 114.111.

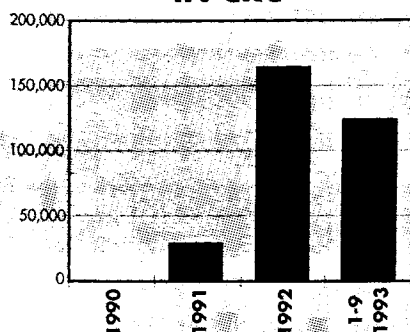
Behind these numbers is hidden the same number of individual human dramas, hopes and fears, their only means of establishing contact with their dearest being the message they get via Red Cross. Although the importance of the Tracing Service activities cannot be measured by numbers, numerical data about the number of messages and tracing requests objectively speak about the immense tragedy the population of Croatia is experiencing, together with hundreds of thousands of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Besides the above mentioned activities which have risen by 2000 % in comparison with 1991 and are constantly on the rise, the Tracing Service has continued to receive demands for extradition of the remains of the dead, it has helped transferring civilians and reuniting separated family members, kept record, files and collected archives material for certain categories of war victims.

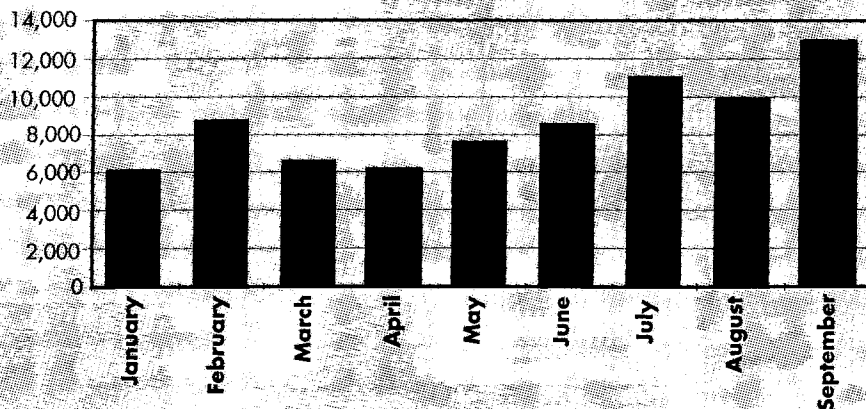
TRACING REQUESTS IN CRC



FAMILY MESSAGES IN CRC



FAMILY MESSAGES IN NHQ CRC PER MONTH - 1993



In the past few years, the Service has not stopped providing daily help and services for the citizens, very often up to more than a hundred clients a day.

The National Tracing Service Office has also continued to give instructions to local organisations, conducted further education and made efforts to maintain and improve the quality of service by the uniform methodology of work and maximum involvement of the scarce number of professionals in all parts of the country. It has successfully cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, related humanitarian organisations and official state bodies. It is due to this cooperation and devoted work of the Service members that 4.130 cases have been successfully completed.

VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONORS

Croatian health institutions have taken care of numerous wounded persons not only from Croatia but also from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Without sufficient quantities of blood it would not have been possible to treat efficiently the victims of war or to perform regular health duties.

Volunteer blood donors from Croatia have fully met the requirements for blood during the war. In the course of 1992, 192.662 blood doses were collected, i.e. 44.1 donors per 1.000 inhabitants, which was the best result ever. This record is due to the high motivation among the population to donate





blood for the salvation of the wounded, but it is also a result of thorough work and timely preparations on the part of the Croatian Red Cross in organising blood collection campaigns in the new circumstances. Blood was collected through usual, regular campaigns, but also in urgent, on the spot campaigns in accordance with the rising requirements in health institutions. During the first six months of 1993, 86.898 blood doses were collected. Although it is 8.3% less than in the same period in 1992, the result does not mean the efficiency in blood collecting has diminished, but, on the contrary, it reflects coordination with the diminished demands in that period.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Regular activities of the Croatian Red Cross have not been neglected by difficult war conditions. Priority has, naturally, been given to the burning war problems, but regular activities have been performed despite the war. Care for the young, especially those in exile, has been one of its main concerns. The young have expressed their solidarity in the traditional Red Cross "Solidarity in Action" activities in 1992, when the young made up more than two thirds of everybody involved.

Publishing, marketing and information activities have also been quite intensive. Domestic and international audience has received daily updates of the widespread activities of the CRC. Health protection, health education and health maintenance activities have been regularly performed and coordinated with e.g. Anti-AIDS Day, Anti TBC Week, World Health Day, Anti-Cancer Week.

First Aid training was very important in days of war especially when many citizens need further instruction in self-aid. Care for the sick and injured, centres for help and care as well as relevant lectures were held in keeping with the needs expressed by the citizens in the new living conditions caused by the war.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement make up the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Humanitarian institution ICRC is the foundation body of the Red Cross. As a neutral mediator in armed conflicts and unrest, it works according to the Geneva Conventions or take the initiative in order to provide protection and help to the victims of international and civil wars, internal unrest and tensions, thus contributing to the world peace.

The task of the Federation is to contribute to the development of humanitarian activities of national societies, to coordinate their relief operations to the victims of natural catastrophes, to take care of the refugees outside the area of conflict and in this way to contribute to the world peace.

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