

Chypre

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY

COLLECTION CICR

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SUMMARISED REPORT ON THE STRUCTURE AND THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE
CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY.

I INTRODUCTION.

Name: The Cyprus Red Cross Society.

Emblem: Red Cross

Headquarters: Nicosia, Cyprus

II ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE.

(1) Dates of: foundation, recognition by the ICRC
and admission to the League:

The Cyprus Red Cross was first established in 1950, while Cyprus was a British Colony, as a Branch of the British Red Cross Society. After Cyprus became an independent country, the Cyprus Red Cross Law, 1967, was enacted under which the Cyprus Red Cross Society was established as an Independent Society as from 1st November, 1969.

An application for recognition has been submitted to the International Committee of the Red Cross and is still under consideration.

(2) Authorities of the Society:

(a) The General Assembly, which consists of the members of the Council, the Presidents of the Branch Committees and representatives of Branches elected for the purpose; the number so elected is proportionate to the number of the members of each Branch.

/ (b) The....

(b) The Council of the Society, which consists of a number of members (not exceeding 20) elected by the General Assembly, representatives of Branches, a number of personalities (not exceeding 12) chosen for their special qualifications or services to the Red Cross, and officers of the Society.

(c) The Executive Committee, which consists of officers of the Society and such other members as may be appointed by the Council.

(d) Branch Committees, which consist of up to 20 members, elected at Annual General Meetings of members every two years.

(e) Committees entrusted with specific functions appointed by the Council or the Executive Committee, and sub-committees of Branches appointed by the Branches.

(3) REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

There are 6 Branches of the Society, one in each District Town, covering all the Districts of Cyprus.

(4) GROUP ORGANISATIONS.

Youth Section, Blood Donors, Disaster Relief, Home Visiting.

(5) RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

The Society acts, where circumstances warrant, as supplementary to the Medical and Health Services of the Government. The Government assists the Society financially by contributing to the maintenance of the Red Cross Home for Sick Children, which is operated by the Society, and by providing other facilities, such as free medical attention and drugs for the children of the Home, and premises for use as Headquarters Offices free of rent.

III MEMBERS AND FINANCING.

(1) Qualifications and categories of members:

(a) Any citizen of the Republic of Cyprus can become a member without any distinction as to race, nationality, class, sex, religion or faith or political opinions.

(b) The categories of members of the Society are three: Ordinary members, Junior members and Life members.

(2) The total number of members of the Society is approximately 2600.

(3) Budget (approximate average) and means of financing:

The Headquarters Offices, The Branches and the Red Cross Home for Sick Children have separate budgets:

(a) The Headquarters have an annual budget of approximately £750, which is met by contributions from the Branches.

(b) The budgets of the Branches vary depending on the population and financial prosperity of the ~~area~~ covered by each Branch and on their activities. The average annual budgets of all Branches is approximately £4,000. The means of financing is: fund-raising activities and members' subscriptions.

(c) The Home for Sick Children has an annual budget of approximately £11,000 per annum. About 50% of this amount is contributed by the Government of Cyprus towards the maintenance of the Home. The balance is raised by contributions of the Branches, private donations and other fund-raising activities (such as the sale of Christmas Cards).

/ (4) Fund-raising...

(4) Fund-raising methods - recent initiatives in this field:

The Branches organize their own fund-raising activities: Street collections, theater and cinema performances, regular social gatherings, bazaars, dances, and other similar events; appeals by means of talks and lectures and by means of mass media and publicity on the various activities of the Red Cross in Cyprus.

(5) Date of the campaign, if any,

There is no fixed date for fund-raising campaigns, fund-raising functions being held by the Branches throughout the year. Concentrated, island-wide campaigns and special appeals and special publicity on the activities of the Red Cross are also invariably organised in May, to mark World Red Cross Day.

IV PRESENT ACTIVITIES.

(1) Disaster Relief,

(a) Preparedness and Planning:

The Society has a Disaster Relief Plan and an Organisation for its implementation extending all over Cyprus. The Plan provides for all kinds of emergencies and for action to be taken both at Headquarters and by the Branches. There is a Central Policy and Co-ordinating Body at Headquarters and there are Committees and Units responsible for disaster relief at each Branch. Close co-ordination is maintained with the Civil Defence and other authorities. The Central Body ensures that the various units are in a constant state of preparedness. The Red Cross has no radio-telecommunications facilities, but these, where necessary, may be provided by the authorities.

(b) Interventions of the Red Cross at the national level:

In recent years, the Red Cross assisted in two disasters, viz the cyclone which occurred

in Limassol.

in Limassol leaving a number of people homeless and the aircraft disaster which occurred in January 1973 in which there were 37 victims.

(c) Assistance:

No assistance has been received from abroad for disaster relief. (Cyprus has luckily been spared any form of disaster in recent years, necessitating such assistance).

The Society invariably sends contributions, in cash, to the extent of its means, to assist in disasters occurring abroad: Such assistance has been sent to Pakistan, Turkey, Greece, Biafra, Roumania, etc.,

(2) Activities as auxiliaries of the public authorities

(a) In general, co-operation with the health services is mainly in the field of blood donation and home visiting and relief of sick and disabled persons. In particular, the Cyprus Red Cross Society operates the Red Cross Home for Sick Children where 32 children, of any race or creed, who are paralysed or otherwise handicapped, receive expert care and attention. The Society cooperates closely with the Health Services of the Government in connection with the Home; the Government Health Services provide medical attention and drugs free of charge and also free treatment (including operations) at the Government Hospitals.

Furthermore, the Director of Medical Services, the Senior Matron, the Director of the Department of Welfare Services and other officers of the Government participate in the various Committees and Activities of the Cyprus Red Cross Society.

/ (b) The....

(b) The Society cooperates closely with the Civil Defence Authorities of the Government of the Republic in connection with its Disaster Relief Organisation and activities, and the Head of Civil Defence is a member of the Society's Disaster Relief Central Body.

(3) Assistance to victims of armed conflicts and internal disorders, the

Assistance mainly took form of tracing of relatives. During the armed conflict in Cyprus in 1964, representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross were based in Cyprus.

(4) Activities under the Development Programme of National Societies,

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| (a) Assistance received | } | Apart from certain publicity material no other assistance has been received or given. |
| (b) Assistance given | | |

(5) Activities in the field of health:

The main general activity is the operation of a Blood Donors Scheme, under which volunteer blood donors are recruited, and home and hospital visiting of the sick. The main particular activity is the operation of the Red Cross Home for Sick Children. (see (2) (a) above).

(6) Activities in the field of nursing:

See (2) (a) above.

(7) Activities in the field of Social Welfare:

The Society carries out considerable social welfare work:-

- Home Visiting and relief to needy persons.
- Hospital Visiting
- Distribution of clothing
- Distribution of food parcels.

/ (8) Activities..

(8) Activities in the field of Youth:

The Society has established a Youth Section and has appointed a Central Committee at Headquarters, which is responsible for the organization and activities of the Section. Sub-Committees of Branches have also been established to pursue this activity at regional level. Close cooperation has been established in this respect with the Education and Social Welfare authorities of Cyprus.

(9) Activities in the field of dissemination on the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross Principles:

The Cyprus Red Cross Society has prepared a booklet entitled "The Geneva Conventions of 1949 - a brief Summary". This has been circulated, through the appropriate Government authorities, to the forces and the schools.

Lectures and talks have been given at various gatherings, such as the Rotarians, the United Nations Association, as well as over the television and radio, on various Red Cross ^{aims and} activities. Furthermore, articles appear in the press and films are shown in the cinemas of Cyprus, in connection with the activities and aims of the Red Cross, throughout the year. Talks have also been given to schools.

The Youth Section is also another means of dissemination of the Red Cross principles to the young.

Generally, all the Branches of the Red Cross in all Districts are very active in Red Cross activities and also in fund-raising functions.

By the above means the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross principles are disseminated.

/ (10) Activities...

(10). Activities carried out to safeguard and promote peace:

It is considered that the Red Cross Society promotes peace in the Island by:

(a) carrying out its activities irrespective of race, religion or creed, serving all communities of the Island. The Society continued to do so even during times of serious intercommunal trouble. The Red Cross Home for Sick Children continued, throughout such troubles, and continues, to receive and provide treatment for both Greek and Turkish children and to have a mixed, Greek and Turkish, staff;

(b) assisting in disasters wherever they may occur;

(c) having on its various organs members emanating from all communities in the island;

(d) promoting the principles of the Geneva Conventions and the Red Cross.

(11) Activities in the field of information and public relations:

On the occasion of World Red Cross Day every year, the Society organises special campaigns by means of press conferences, radio and television programmes and other functions.

There is a Publicity Committee at Headquarters which is responsible for publicity and information.

Lectures and talks are given at various gatherings, such as the Rotarians, the United Nations Association, as well as over Television and Radio, on various Red Cross aims and activities. Furthermore, articles appear in the press and films are shown in the cinemas

/ in connection

in connection with the activities and aims of the Red Cross, throughout the year, Appropriate publicity is given to the Red Cross Home for Sick Children, which is visited by the President of the Republic and other personalities often, and special television programmes are organized from time to time showing "the Home at work".

Nicosia,
August 1973.