

# Facts and Figures on the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross

# 2014



**BULGARIAN  
RED CROSS**

*Last 2014 was another year full of challenges, hardship and difficulties both for the society and for the Red Cross. Once again, our organization was right where the needs were - assisting the state institutions and the people in trouble. With the help of the whole Bulgarian society we assisted people affected by disasters and crises, lonely older and ill people, homeless people, children, victims of the frantic „War on the roads“, students dropping out of school because of poverty.*

*In our actions we have applied the Red Cross fundamental principles on a daily basis, and through our 20,000 volunteers across the country, we have ensured humanitarian assistance for 72 000 Bulgarian citizens in need and for 9 000 refugees and people seeking asylum and protection in our country. More than 18 000 people affected by the massive floods were immediately supported through the Bulgarian Red Cross / BRC/ disaster reserve. With the support of our corporate partners and of thousands of individual donors - over 500 tons of water, 50 tons of food, hygiene, cleaning materials and disinfectants - were made available.*

*The volunteers and staff of the Red Cross are on guard, at all times, fighting a human battle against misery and poverty, against disaster and despair.*

*We are grateful to our partners - state institutions, local authorities, corporate sector, donors and supporters, to all Bulgarian citizens, without whom we could not have been able to provide care to those who need support.*

*We are proud of the results achieved and with confidence continue serving people and society. Thank you for helping us help.*



*M. Pharm. Hristo Grigorov, Dr. h. c.*

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Hristo Grigorov'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

## Who we are?

The Bulgarian Red Cross carries out its activity in execution of its main objective to alleviate and prevent human suffering with impartiality and neutrality, without discrimination as to nationality or race, gender, social status, religious conviction or political ideas.

Through its network of volunteers in the whole country, the BRC renders assistance to the vulnerable people in disaster and crisis situations. By means of training programmes and activities for the benefit of the public, the National Red Cross Society contributes to alleviating and preventing the suffering in all its forms, protects health and life and ensures respect for the human being.

The first organizations of the Red Cross in Bulgaria were founded in 1878 in Sliven and Sofia and the National Red Cross organization was created in 1885.

The first Bulgarian Red Cross Law was adopted in 1995 by the Bulgarian Parliament. The Organization is registered under the Bulgarian Non-Profit Legal Entities Act as an association for public benefit.

The Bulgarian Red Cross is a voluntary organization which is a part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is guided by its Fundamental Principles: **Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.**

## International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



189 members Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide



### The Emblem

The distinctive emblem is a red cross on a white ground. There are two legal uses of the emblem: **protective** - in times of armed conflict, and **indicative** - in peacetime, it shows that a person or object is linked to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The use of the emblem is regulated by the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols, as well as by the specific Regulations adopted by the Movement's Council of Delegates in 1991.

### Four Nobel Prizes for Peace

- ◆ 1901 – awarded to Henry Dunant – the founder of the Red Cross, who dedicated his life to humanity and alleviating human suffering.
- ◆ 1917 and 1944 – awarded to the International Committee of the Red Cross in recognition of its humanitarian activities during the two World Wars.
- ◆ 1963 – awarded to ICRC and the League (now the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Movement.



## Organizational Activity

- ◆ **Number of members – 147 554;**
- ◆ **Membership compared to population – 2,04%;**
- ◆ **Number of volunteers – 18 835;**
- ◆ **Local associations – 2 792;**
- ◆ **Municipal branches – 266;**
- ◆ **Regional branches – 28;**
- ◆ **Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the BRC Strategy 2020 – an expertise to follow the achievement of the expected results 2010-2014 – 93% of the activities and the initiatives realized, due to the changes in the social environment;**
- ◆ Reporting campaign 2014/2015;
- ◆ A systematic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the status and the activities of the BRC regional organizations is applied in accordance with the standards of a Well-Functioning National Society; **10** regional structures evaluated in 2014 – Vidin, Stara Zagora, Sliven, Lovech, Gabrovo, Kardjali, Kiustendil, Pernik, Silistra and Russe;
- ◆ A systematic up-date of the organizational procedures and rules and their adoption in the practice of the BRC Governance and Management;
- ◆ Education and Training – **14 841** persons trained during the year (**4 542** members and **10 299** volunteers)
- ◆ Through the Bulgarian Red Cross Food Bank Mechanism assistance is provided to **3 600** people in need in **15** Regions in the country at the amount of over **50 000** BGN;
- ◆ Project activities - successfully implemented **271** projects in different activity areas, carried out in communities at national, regional, municipal and local level;
- ◆ Volunteering – **52,5%** of the volunteers are young people under the age of 35:
  - Contemporary volunteer management implemented at all levels;
  - Motivation and training of the volunteers through implementation of serious programs at local level;
  - Pro-active role in the arrangement of the legal status of the volunteers – input for the elaboration and in the consultations related to the draft Law on Volunteering;
  - a BRC IT system of volunteer management approved at regional level;
  - Elaborated BRC Concept for management of spontaneous volunteers in crisis situations.



## Disaster Management

**Bulgarian Red Cross assists the government in the humanitarian field, in preparedness for response in wartime, military conflicts and disasters, to protect and strengthen public health and education in the spirit of humanity, compassion and charity. The Organization is part of the rescue system of the country and as such, actively participated in the development and updating of the National Plan and program for protection of the population in case of disasters.**

### ◆ Capacity and resources:

- National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) – **29** people;
- Volunteer Disaster Response Teams (VDRT) – **22** Teams with **380** people;
- National Floods Response Team (NFRT) – **14** people;
- **9** Units to Flood Response Teams in the Branches;
- **8** people trained to work with water purification units;
- **7** people members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) IFRC - EZO Budapest;
- **132** volunteers - professional psychologists trained in first psychological aid and psychosocial support in case of disasters;

### ◆ Facilities/Material resources:

- Central Warehouse – Lozen;
- Inter-regional warehouses – Ruse, Dobrich, Burgas;
- At all Regional Councils of the Bulgarian Red Cross - minimum disaster stock reserve for immediate assistance to those affected is available,
- Radio network for alternative connection between the National Council and inter-regional warehouses in case of disasters exist and is operational.

### ◆ Risk Prevention:

- Conducted over **50** training exercises for VDRT's;
  - Trained **80** new professionals - psychologists (BRC volunteers) at national and regional level;
  - Participation in **3** seminars, exercises and courses organized by IFRC/RC - Geneva, ICRC and IFRC Europe Zone office.
- ◆ Assistance in the country to affected by disasters – immediate assistance to over **18 000** affected from the floods in **21** regions with cooperation of more than **500** BRC volunteers and staff;
- ◆ In the first hours of the disaster, together with the state and local authorities BRC:

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- Provided immediate assistance for evacuated residents in the areas of Veliko Tarnovo, Varna, Dobrich, Vratsa, Montana, Burgas and other affected municipalities with blankets, bed linen, camp-beds, etc. from the disaster reserve;
- Provided over **250** tons of bottled water, **50** tons of food, hygiene kits, cleaning agents and disinfectant items to the affected people;
- Opened distribution points and crisis centers for rendering first psychological aid and psychosocial support by teams of local volunteers and professionals in the affected regions.
- ◆ Over **20** participations in regional, national and international exercises and workshops with partners;
- ◆ BRC representatives actively participated at the expert level in the work of nine Inter-agency expert working groups;
- ◆ Partners: Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Health; Fire Safety and Civil Protection General Directorate - Ministry of Interior; Sofia Metropolitan Municipality; Military Medical Academy; State Agency for Refugees; NGO's, media, etc.





## Health and Social Activities

The Bulgarian Red Cross, in compliance with its humane mission, implements activities directed towards alleviation of the vulnerability and prevention of the social exclusion of people most in need with the objective to improve their quality of life. At the same time, the Health and Social Policy Department organizes different initiatives and campaigns aiming to preserve the life and health of the people through health promotion and prevention.

### First Aid

- ◆ The BRC training programs on First Aid for various groups of the population are certified with the European First Aid Certificate. In 2014 were trained **67 162** persons in courses for:
  - candidate-drivers;
  - teachers, parents and child-keepers;
  - teachers from **14** regions were trained in the National Training Program of the Ministry of Education;
  - first aid on the working place;
  - paramedics – 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of the professional qualification of paramedics named „Ambulance transport, first aid provision and assistance in emergency hospital departments“.
- ◆ Prevention of road accidents:
  - National Charity Fund for Supporting Children-Victims of Traffic Accidents -

assistance rendered to families of **80** children injured in road accidents;

- **41** open lessons on road safety organized with the participation of **1 259** children from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade;
- Participation in the National students' quiz „To Prevent Children on the Road“;
- Participation in the exam on First Aid in the National Cycling Championship „Youth for Road Safety“;
- Partnership in the National competition „Traffic Policeman of the Year“;
- ◆ Participation in different road safety campaigns.

### Health Promotion

- ◆ **3 167** different health promotion activities organized;
- ◆ Promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation – **352** promotion campaigns held, **4 463** donors;
- ◆ Telephone line for psycho-social support: Sofia (02 8164 892), Plovdiv (032 61 51) u Yambol (046 66 29 04) – **10 041** psycho-social consultations performed;
- ◆ Prevention of socially significant diseases - AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, poliomyelitis, cervical cancer, etc.;
- ◆ **79** BRC health clubs existing – significant part of the health promotion;



- ◆ Partnerships established on national and local level aiming at creating healthy life habits of children and adults.

### Social Activities

- ◆ Humanitarian assistance – support provided to **71 810** persons and **733** social institutions and health facilities;
- ◆ Financial support at the total amount of **55 406** BGN provided to **283** persons in need through the BRC Charity Fund.

### Social Services

- ◆ License from the Social Assistance Agency for the provision of **14** types of social services, **10** of them for older people.
- ◆ Social services provided to a total of **8 200** older persons.
- ◆ **10** Home Care Centers – providing regular integrated health care and social services to **700** beneficiaries. In 2014 a total of **31166** home visits by nurses were carried out and **58 818** visits – by home-helpers. The HC Centers in Vratsa, Byala Slatina, Krivodol and Oryahovo are financed by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development and are implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Swiss Red Cross.
- ◆ **12** Soup-kitchens for **703** persons;
- ◆ Support services for people with disabili-

ties and limited mobility at **5** railway stations – **9 374** services rendered to **1 859** persons in Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas and Stara Zagora;

- ◆ Day care centers for older people, social stores, bureaus for social services, home-helpers, social assistants:
  - Home for older people and Red Cross Hospice in Kardjali providing everyday care to **50** older persons in deteriorated health status;
  - Support to homeless people – **438** persons were supported in **10** regions of the country;
  - **18** social consultation bureaus – **3 029** persons received consultations in Varna, Plovdiv, Smolyan and Silistra.
- ◆ International projects involving active older people and directed towards encouragement of social inclusion, intergenerational solidarity and exchange of best practices:
  - Age Awareness and Advocacy of Older People's Rights Project implemented in **14** regions of Bulgaria – more than **1 500** active senior volunteers trained.
  - Active Senior Citizens for Europe Project – implemented in cooperation with AGE Platform Europe and partners from **8** EU countries, supported by the Europe for Citizens Program.



## Activities with Refugees and Migrants



- ◆ **Support provided** to over **9 000** asylum seekers, accommodated in the Reception centers of the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) at the Council of Ministers and to over **1 000** asylum seekers and refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Ghana, Mali, etc., living on external addresses.
- ◆ **Services:**
  - BRC has provided humanitarian aid to the refugees in the Reception centers - food packages, essential medicines, hygienic packages, diapers, adopted baby milk, etc.;
  - daily social counseling;
  - consultations and referrals on medical issues, on job search and housing issues;
  - assisting refugee children's access to education;
  - consultations on voluntary return in the country of origin;
  - assisting refugee and migrant communities with preserving their cultural identity and traditions.
- ◆ Prevention of infectious and other diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, hypertonic and diabetes;
- ◆ Monitoring of the reception conditions for asylum seekers and refugees in the Reception centers of SAR and the accommodation facilities for migrants under the Migration Directorate, Ministry of Interior;
- ◆ On-field work with refugee and migrant communities;
- ◆ Completion of **19** Bulgarian language courses, attended by **182** refugees;
- ◆ Two Information centers for refugees established in Sofia and Haskovo – provided services to **1 036** refugees;
- ◆ Social mediation as a way of assisting asylum seekers – employing **10** mediators - refugees, facilitating the process of asylum seekers' initial adaptation in Bulgaria;
- ◆ Summer camp for refugee children for studying Bulgarian language;
- ◆ **14** tolerance-promoting lectures among high school students in Sofia, Haskovo, Harmanli, Nova Zagora and Stara Zagora;
- ◆ **14** Information sessions with refugees and asylum seekers about their rights and obligations, about prevention of sexual and gender based violence, etc.;
- ◆ Trainings of staff from local and state structures in working with asylum seekers and refugees;
- ◆ Partners – UNHCR, SAR, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Bulgarian Council for Refugees and Migrants, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, CARITAS Bulgaria, etc.

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## Mountain Rescue



### ◆ Emergency Rescue Activities:

- 494 volunteers and 43 staff rescuers, organized in 32 rescue teams.
- Rendered assistance to over 2 000 persons, of whom 60% with severe injuries were transported to a hospital.
- 78 rescue operations with the participation of 382 rescuers. Aid rendered to 71 victims.
- Cooperation agreement between BRC and Club „Active Security“ for helicopter rescue operations.
- Main Dispatch Center in Sofia – maintains 24/7 communication with the European Emergency Phone Number 112.

### ◆ Training Activities:

- Trainee mountain rescuers – winter and summer course – 23 persons;
- Mountain rescuers – winter and summer – 33 rescuers;
- Medical Staff – winter and summer – 38 participants;
- Difficult Terrain Rescue – 23 participants;
- Alpine Cliff Rescue – 26 participants.

- 4 mountain rescuers trained for helicopter rescue operations;
- Training courses for avalanche dogs and handlers:
  - Avalanche training for beginners – 17 rescuers with 13 dogs;
  - Avalanche training – 23 rescuers with 17 dogs;
  - Disasters, accidents and catastrophes training – 26 participants with 21 dogs.
- Republican Winter Exercise – 120 participants.

### ◆ Prevention Activities:

- MRS maintains active contacts with central and regional media. Implemented more than 1 953 and publications with participation of experts from MRS.
- Daily updated website (<http://pss.bg>) with information on the operational situation in the mountains, with information and recommendations.
- The implementation of Mountain Health Insurance as a product of the big insurance companies.



## Water Life Saving Activities

In 2014 Water Life Saving Service of the Bulgarian Red Cross celebrated 50 years since its creation. In connection with the anniversary, Almanac „50 Years of Water Life Saving Service“ was issued.

### ◆ Drowning prevention:

- Educated in drowning prevention programs – **83 117** children:
  - „Water lifesaving minimum“ – **79 191**;
  - „Friends with water“ – **3 276**;
  - „Keep an eye on“ – **425**;
  - „Blue summer“ – **225**.
- Associations of volunteer lifesavers – **34** with **1 177** members;
- Organization of the National Round Table on topic „Child safety - shared responsibility and care“;
- Partnership agreement with SPEEDO - the world's leading swimwear brand and DHL - the global market leader in the logistics industry, to support activities for Water Life Saving.

### ◆ Training of lifeguards:

- Trained lifeguards – **1 154 (743** – for swimming pools and water parks, **399** – for open water and surf lifeguard and **12** – „Chief lifeguard“);
- Trained in qualification degree „Junior lifeguard“ – **25**;

- Revalidated personal permissions for lifeguards – **3 910**;
- Training of **700** police officers in water safety;
- Rendered assistance to the Romanian Red Cross volunteer creation of Water Life Saving Units.

### ◆ Methodical support and Lifeguard service management:

- Contracts for Lifeguard services on **17** beaches, **18** swimming pools and **4** water parks.
- Rescue actions – **4 806**;
- National Scientific and Practical Conference on Water Rescue – Varna.

### ◆ International and sport activities:

- **3** National Life Saving tournaments: „Junior lifeguard“ – Stara Zagora, „Lyuben Kantardzhiev“ – Veliko Tarnovo, „Junior lifeguard“ – Varna;
- Development Project for building capacity of the Macedonian Red Cross in water life saving, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Bulgaria.

### ◆ Participation in:

- World Rescue Championship, France;
- ILSE Board Meeting, Viena, Austria;
- ILSE Board Meetings. and commissions workshops.

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## Bulgarian Red Cross Youth



### Organizational Development:

- ◆ 390 youth clubs in the 28 regions of the country, 5 393 members and 2 230 volunteers;
- ◆ Over 6 000 trained members and volunteers;
- ◆ Summer Academy for Volunteers 2014.

### First Aid, Psychosocial Support and Youth Emergency Teams:

- ◆ 20 Youth Emergency Teams with 340 members and more than 180 campaigns and demonstrations;
- ◆ Youth Emergency Teams took part in supporting the affected population during the floods in the country;
- ◆ National Competition Youth Emergency Teams;
- ◆ Over 1 000 volunteers, trained to provide first aid and 580 to render first psychological aid and psychosocial support;
- ◆ 266 school first aid teams with 1 310 members across the country;
- ◆ National First Aid and Psychosocial Support Training – Winter Academy for Volunteers 2014.

### Projects:

- ◆ Social Program Providing Services and Support to Children and Young People Leaving Social Care Institutions, supported by Velux Foundation and IFRC/RC with 2 main components:
  - Foster Care Consultation Centre - BRCY launched a national foster care

information campaign in 88 municipalities and 25 regions of the country, with the support of more than 740 volunteers and in partnership with more than 89 NGOs and institutions – reaching 30 000 people. BRCY trained 168 applicants for foster parents and current foster parents. Organized workshops and children's festivals for 250 children placed in foster care.

- Protected Home for Children and Young People Leaving Social Care Institutions – The Colourful House – 28 young people used its service.
- ◆ Partners for Social Change Project, with the support of Velux Foundation and Danish Red Cross with 4 major components:
  - Small Grants Scheme – provided financial support for 18 youth projects implemented in 16 regions;
  - Psychosocial support workshops in schools – 5 713 students reached;
  - Summer camps for refugee children and children at risk – 89 children;
  - Community Support Centre in the town of Sozopol – with overall capacity of 35 children.

### Social Welfare Activities:

- ◆ Charity fundraising campaigns for the flood victims – raised over 23 000 BGN;



- ◆ 375 visits to 7 167 children and adults living in social care institutions;
- ◆ Visits of children's hospital wards across the country, where 2 000 hospitalized children received Christmas presents;
- ◆ Weekly psychosocial support for children living in centres for temporary accommodation of refugees and asylum seekers.
- ◆ Other Social services for children:
  - Shelter for Homeless Children in Russe – 50 children;
  - Day Care Centre for Homeless Children in Russe – 27 children;
  - Family-type Protected Home for Children in Pazardjik – 16 children;
  - Day Care Centre for Homeless Children in Pazardjik – 54 children;
  - Community Support Centre for Children and Families in Dobrich – 44 children.

#### Health Promotion:

- ◆ Prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually risky behaviour, promotion of reproductive health - information campaigns, presentations in schools and trainings of volunteers. More than 56 470 young people reached;
- ◆ HIV/AIDS prevention and harm reduction activities among injecting drug users through a programme funded by the UN Global Fund in the towns of Russe and Kyustendil - 2 low-threshold day care centres for injecting drug users;

- ◆ Substance Abuse Prevention - information campaigns and presentations in schools. More than 40 350 young people reached;
- ◆ Promotion of healthy eating habits and active lifestyle - information campaigns, presentations in schools and training for volunteers - 8 774 children and young people reached.

**Promotion Of Humanitarian Values** – information campaigns, presentations in schools and trainings for volunteers – 4 013 people reached.

**Exploring Humanitarian Law** programme of the International Committee of the Red Cross – 150 volunteers trained.

#### International Activities:

- ◆ Member of European Youth Coordination Committee from Bulgarian Red Cross Youth;
- ◆ Member of Governing Body of European Network for Psychosocial Support;
- ◆ Participation in the IFRC YouLead initiative for developing a Global Leadership Toolkit
- ◆ Participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> European Youth Cooperation Meeting, European Youth Conference and European RC/RC Conference;
- ◆ Participation in the International Youth Leadership Academy organised by Danish Red Cross Youth, International Study and Friendship Camp organised by Austrian Red Cross Youth, etc.



## International Cooperation

The Bulgarian Red Cross cooperates effectively with the IFRC, the ICRC, the Red Cross EU Office, the IFRC Zone Office for Europe, National Societies of Red Cross/Red Crescent, the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic missions and others.

◆ **Participation of the BRC in official forums of the Movement:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> European Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Florence, Italy;
- 21<sup>st</sup> European Youth Cooperation Meeting, where the President of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth has been elected as a member of the European Youth Coordination Committee;
- The BRC is the only National Society representing Central and Eastern Europe at the Reference group, supporting the Movement-wide initiative on Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons;
- Meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing;
- More than **250** representatives of the BRC participated in various international events. The Bulgarian Red Cross hosted over **55** visits of international partners.

- ◆ **International project partnerships - 32** projects with donor funding, out of which **17** funded by international donors;
- ◆ Projects implemented with the support of the EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO):
  - European campaign „Disaster Resilience“;
  - Prepare to Respond II, a BRC volunteer in a humanitarian mission in Georgia;
  - „Aware and Resilient“, adequate disaster preparedness of the communities;
  - „PrepAge“, improving the disaster preparedness of older people.
- ◆ Participation in European and Red Cross networks – the BRC is a member of **11** networks and/or platforms - ESP, ENDOV, ILSE, AGE, FAEEN, ENPS, IKAR, EFPG, ELSG, BPID, EPSG;
- ◆ Membership in the Bulgarian Platform for International Development;
- ◆ Memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreement in fields of common interest with **24** Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. **18** regional organizations of the BRC develop partnerships with branches of other National Societies;
- ◆ **International aid provided by the BRC:**
  - Financial support to the IFRC Emergen-



cy Appeal for the affected population from the internal conflict in Iraq;

- Delivered humanitarian aid for the population affected by the floods in Serbia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Two international missions to Ukraine as delegates of the IFRC;
- Two missions to Georgia, as delegates of the IFRC and of the Austrian Red Cross.

#### ◆ **Tracing Service:**

- Restoring and maintaining links between members of separated families – refugees, migrants and asylum seekers;
- The BRC hosted the Annual Meeting with the participation of Tracing Services from **32** European National Societies, ICRC, IFRC and observers from the National Societies of Australia, Canada, USA and New Zealand;
- Conducted **3** training courses on Restoring Family Links in the cities

of Pernik, Montana and Vidin in the frames of the project „Prepared together for Disasters, Accidents and Catastrophes“;

- **206** new tracing cases for people who lost contact as a result of armed conflicts and migration;
- **24** trained staff members on Restoring Family Links from **24** regional organizations.

#### ◆ **Promotion of International Humanitarian Law and Fundamental Principles:**

- ICRC campaign for universal ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty;
- The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement campaign to prohibit and completely eliminate nuclear weapons;
- Training of university students and representatives of law enforcement agencies;
- **2** seminars on IHL for university students.



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## Public Relations, Marketing, Fundraising and Publishing Activities

### ◆ Public Relations:

- Publications and broadcasts - **17 153**;
- BRC website – **232 458** visits;
- Facebook page of BRC – approximately **8 000** users;
- Facebook page of the Hot Meal Program – approximately **2 000** users.

### ◆ Media forum in relation to attitudes to the problems of refugees;

### ◆ Editions of the BRC:

- Weekly electronic bulletin – **47** issues;
- Facts and Figures 2013;
- 10 years Hot Meal Program;
- Nurses of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

### ◆ XV<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films - Varna;

### ◆ Fundraising for humanitarian causes:

- National Campaign in support to people affected by the floods in Bulgaria - raised **2 148 703 BGN**;
- Campaign in support to people affected by the floods in West Balkans - raised **31 285 BGN**;
- Help the Refugees in Bulgaria Campaign - **21 167 BGN**;
- Fund for Supporting Victims of Disasters and Crises - **15 535 BGN**;

- Hot Meal Program – raised **138 100 BGN**, **1 537** children from **26** regions in the country received a free hot meal in school;
- National Fund for Supporting Children, Victims of Traffic Accidents – with **41 973 BGN** are assisted families of **80** children from the county;
- Fund for Development of the Artistic Talents of Children with Special Needs - **3 592 BGN**.
- National Charity Fund - raised **60 756 BGN**, **283** persons assisted.





## Training Facilities

### National Training and logistics center – Lozen

Specialized institution licensed by the National Agency for professional education and training for education in the following topics: „Fellow in social activities“, „Home assistant, nurse and medical orderly/sanitarian“, „Social work with children and families at risk,“ „Assistant educator“, „Babysitter“, „Rescuer in disasters, accidents and catastrophes“, etc. Vocational certificates are valid for all EU countries and Switzerland.

Bulgarian Red Cross National Training Center provides training on first aid at the workplace, for parents, teachers, educators and others. The certificates are recognized in all European countries and are valid for 5 years.

At the National Training Center – Lozen there is an established occupational health service and there are trainings on prevention and preparedness for responding to disasters.

The center has modern equipped training rooms, hotel facilities, restaurant, playground equipment and equipped areas for outdoor events.

### National Training Center – Sozopol

The center is specialized facility for vocational training of lifeguards and has equipped rooms

for training, corporate events and conferences.

NTC of BRC is located on the beach and during the summer it operates as a two stars hotel. All rooms and suites have sea view and are equipped with air conditioning, refrigerator, Wi-Fi and cable TV.

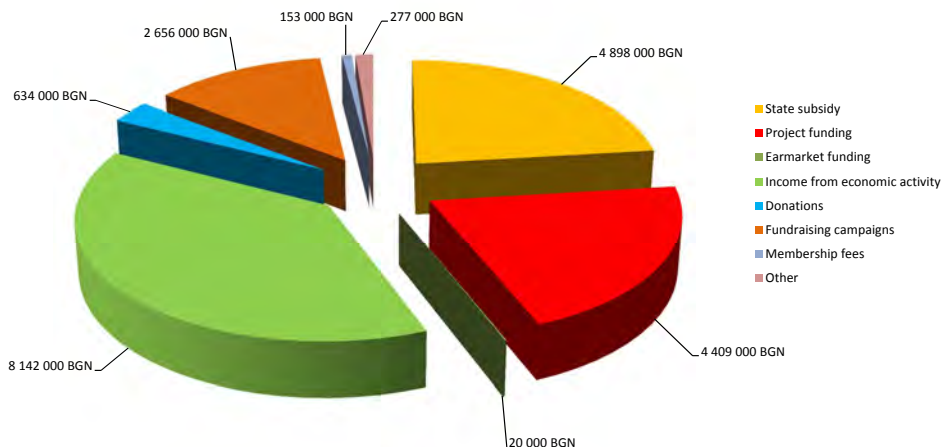
### National Training Center – Borovets

The center is a specialized base for training of rescuers, and it is categorized with 3 edelweiss. It is situated 300 meters away from the main ski lift, next to the ski slopes. It has 10 rooms and 2 suites equipped with TV and Internet, restaurant, lobby bar, sauna, ski storage.



# Financial Activities

Sources of funding of Bulgarian Red Cross in 2014



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In relation to the specific status of the Red Cross as a NGO supporting the Government in the humanitarian field and executing specific commitments stipulated in the Bulgarian Red Cross Act, and in pursuit of the Geneva Conventions, the organization receives support in the form of subsidy from the state budget.

The subsidy is spent on increasing the capacity of the organization and maintaining constant readiness to work in situations of disasters, accidents and catastrophes (DAC); recovery and accumulation of reserve assets to support the population in DAC; prevention and assistance in accidents in the mountains and water areas; training of rescuers in first-aid;

conducting socio-welfare activities among adults, youth and children; collection and distribution of humanitarian aid; increasing health awareness of population, reduction and prevention of socially significant diseases, public education for first aid, support and awareness of the voluntary blood donation, prevention of road accidents; assistance to vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers and/or international protection; promoting the goals and objectives of the International Red Cross Movement and the Bulgarian Red Cross, assistance for the study, dissemination and compliance with the norms of International humanitarian law; restoring family links and tracing family members separated as a result of wars, armed conflicts and natural disasters.

**It is the impartiality and neutrality of the organization that allow it to assist the vulnerable people in difficult situations, to be autonomous and be accessible to all. In order to fulfil its mission, BRC needs the support and the response of the whole society.**

#### **CHARITY FUND**

IBAN in BGN: BG64UNCR 9660 1010 6880 21  
BIC: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### **HOT MEAL PROGRAMME**

IBAN in BGN: BG37UNCR 7000 1500 5335 32  
BIC: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### **NATIONAL CHARITY FUND FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN-VICTIMS OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS**

IBAN in BGN: BG64UNCR 7630 1077 1341 33  
BIC: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### **FUND FOR SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DISASTERS AND CRISES**

IBAN in BGN: BG47 UNCR 7630 1077 9117 00  
BIC kog: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### **FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ARTISTIC TALLENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

IBAN in BGN: BG13 UNCR 7000 1512 1422 45  
BIC: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

#### **HOME CARE PROGRAMME**

IBAN B BGN: BG80 UNCR 7630 1000 0302 91  
BIC: UNCRBGSF  
UniCredit Bulbank  
3, Kaloyan Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria



