

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

# 2015



**BULGARIAN  
RED CROSS**

*Only a few days ago, the supreme forum of the Bulgarian Red Cross – the General Assembly - adopted the report on the accomplishments of the organization's volunteers and employees in the 2015. The evaluation showed that the BRC has completed successfully its activities in support to the most vulnerable people and has lobbied the institutions for their rights. 147,400 people are members of the organization and its volunteers are 18,165 persons, 58% of whom are young people.*

*Last year the BRC provided humanitarian assistance to 62,751 vulnerable persons and 452 social and health institutions, 8,108 persons in need have benefited from our social services, while 600 older people with chronic diseases and permanent disabilities received integrated health and social services in their homes. 67,331 candidate drivers, teachers, parents and caregivers, employees of companies were trained in First Aid. 14,000 asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants received humanitarian aid.*

*The organization enhanced its preparedness and capacity to respond to disaster and crisis situations, thus remaining a competent and reliable partner of the State. More than 4,000 people affected by emergencies received out assistance. The mountain rescuers of the Bulgarian Red Cross saved the lives of 1,837 people in the mountains, and 3,838 people were rescued by our water lifeguards.*

*One of the significant events in 2015 was the renewal of the International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films in Varna, after 23-years of interruption.*

*In 2016 the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth organization celebrates its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is further reaffirming its status of the most valuable alternative for young people. The BRCY has provided social services to 10,417 children and adults throughout the country. 17 children and youth with special needs were awarded grants to develop their creative abilities; 25 young people successfully accomplished their residence in the Protected „Colourful House“ for youth leaving social institutions; while 1,650 underprivileged children across the country received free lunch at school. The activities for prevention of risky sexual behavior and HIV / AIDS have reached more than 56,500 young people, and over 15,200 were reached by activities for prevention of addictions.*

*These are only a few of the facts and figures from the activities accomplished by the Bulgarian Red Cross in 2015. They are conclusive evidence of the contribution made by the thousands BRC workers, volunteers, staff and members in the assistance received by the vulnerable people and those affected by emergencies. We are grateful to them all for the hard work and dedication and to our many partners and donors for their invaluable support.*

*Let us wish that 2016 is even more fruitful and successful for the „House of Goodness“ – the Bulgarian Red Cross.*



*Mag. Pharm. Hristo Grigorov, Dr.H.C.  
President*

*Prof. Dr. Krasimir Gigov  
Director General*

## 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

 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

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

 190 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

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- ◆ Number of members – 147 400;
- ◆ Membership compared to population – 2,05%;
- ◆ Number of volunteers – 18 165;
- ◆ Local associations – 2 855;
- ◆ Municipal branches – 267;
- ◆ Regional branches – 28;
- ◆ Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the **BRC Strategy 2020** – the achievement of the expected results in the middle of the period – 94% of the planned activities and initiatives realized in dynamically changing social environment;
- ◆ Reporting campaign 2015/2016;
- ◆ 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; 7 regional structures evaluated in 2015 – Dobrich, Shumen, Burgas, Razgrad, Pleven, Pazardjik and Plovdiv;
- ◆ 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 – 14 160 persons trained during the year (4 624 members and 9 536 volunteers);
- ◆ Through the **Bulgarian Red Cross Food Bank Mechanism** assistance is provided to 951 families, over 5 000 people in need in 15 regions in the country at the amount of 93 176 BGN;
- ◆ **Project activities** - successfully implemented 278 projects in different activity areas, carried out in communities at national, regional, municipal and local level;
- ◆ **Volunteering** – 58% 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 and implemented BRC Concept for management of spontaneous volunteers in crisis situations.



## 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 2015 67 331 persons were trained in courses for candidate-drivers, teachers, parents and child-keepers, first aid on the working place.
- ◆ **Prevention of road accidents:**
  - National Charity Fund for Supporting Children-Victims of Traffic Accidents - assistance provided to families of 78 children;
  - 29 open lessons on road safety organized with the participation of 579 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 First Aid exam 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

- ◆ 2 693 different health promotion activities organized;
- ◆ Promotion of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation – 293 promotion campaigns held, 5 048 donors;
- ◆ Telephone line for psycho-social support: Sofia (02 492 30 30) and Yambol (046 66 29 04) – 4 849 psycho-social consultations performed;
- ◆ Prevention of socially significant diseases - AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, poliomyelitis, cervical cancer, etc.;
- ◆ 83 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.

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### Social Activities

- ◆ Humanitarian assistance – provided to **62 751** persons and **452** social institutions and health facilities;
- ◆ Financial support at the total amount of **53 733 BGN** provided to **245** 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 **8 108** older persons.
- ◆ **8 Home Care Centers** – providing regular integrated health care and social services to **600** beneficiaries. In 2015 a total of **28425** home visits by nurses were carried out and **44 677** 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.
- ◆ **6** Soup-kitchens for **647** persons;

- ◆ Support services for people with disabilities and limited mobility at **5** railway stations **9 421** services rendered to **1 891** 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 – **334** persons were supported in **11** regions of the country;
  - **13** social consultation bureaus – **2602** persons received consultations in Varna, Plovdiv, Smolyan and Silistra.
- ◆ **International projects involving active older people** and directed towards encouragement of social inclusion, inter-generational 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 involved.



## Activities with Refugees and Migrants

- ◆ **Support** provided to over **14 000** asylum seekers, accommodated in the **6** 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, Pakistan, Cameroon, Somalia, stateless persons and others, living on external addresses.
- ◆ **Services:**
  - Provision of humanitarian aid to the inhabitants of the reception facilities – food packages, essential medicines, hygienic packages, diapers, adopted baby milk, etc.;
  - Social counselling;
  - Facilitating access to medical care, social assistance, employment market and housing;
  - Organizing Bulgarian language courses;
  - Assisting refugee children's access to education;
  - Consultations on voluntary return in the country of origin;
  - Support to refugee and migrant communities to preserve their cultural identity and traditions.
- ◆ Prevention of socially significant diseases – including TB – **1 417** covered refugees;
- ◆ 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;
- ◆ Field work with refugee and migrant communities;
- ◆ **8** Bulgarian language courses held, attended by **121** refugees;
- ◆ **11** tolerance-promoting lectures among secondary school students, Sofia University and New Bulgarian University;
- ◆ Provided services to **1 000** refugees in **2** Information centers in Sofia and Haskovo;
- ◆ Social mediation, financing through the European Refugee Fund – **1 374** people seeking protection;
- ◆ Organizing with the BRCY – summer camp for refugee children with intensive Bulgarian language training;
- ◆ **25** Information sessions with refugees and asylum seekers about their rights and obligations;
- ◆ **21** training of experts from public institutions and local government;
- ◆ **4** trainings for social workers;
- ◆ Main 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.



## 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 National 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) – 25 Teams with 384 people;
- National Floods Response Team (NFRT) – 15 people;
- 16 Units to Flood Response Teams in the Branches;
- 8 people trained to work with water purification units;
- Team consist from 7 people members of the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) IFRC – EZO Budapest;
- 76 volunteers – professional psychologists, members of VDRT, trained in first

psychological aid and psychosocial support in case of disasters.

### ◆ Facilities/Material resources:

- Central Warehouse – Lozen;
- Inter-regional warehouses – Ruse, Dobrich, Burgas and Kapitan Andreevo;
- At all Regional Councils of the BRC – 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 up to 128 training exercises for VDRT's on national and regional level;
- Conducted 110 VDRT's training activities for 424 members;
- Participation in seminars, exercises and courses organized by IFRC/RC and other National societies in Greece, Italy, Belarus and Romania.

### ◆ Assistance in the country to affected by disasters:

- Immediate assistance to over 4 000



affected from the floods in the regions of Ruse, Silistra, Dobrich, Varna, Shumen, Targovishte, Burgas, Stara Zagora and Kardzhali. More than **160** BRC volunteers and staff were among the first to support and rendering assistance to affected population.

- BRC provided property for immediate assistance to the victims of disasters from organizational reserve - over **27 400** l. of water, **422** blankets, **332** sheets, **172** mattresses, hygiene materials and others. To the evacuated people has been provided food and water.
- Due to the devastating low temperatures and heavy snow BRC branch in Ruse provided a hot lunch and sandwiches to the suffering people for **20** days and BRC -

Kardzhali provided **1100** l. mineral water to **10** social institutions and to the Hospital of Ardino.

- Due to high temperature during July and August in many areas of the country were established points to help vulnerable citizens, where over **2 000** bottles of mineral water were handed out.
- ◆ BRC representatives actively participated at the expert level in the work of **10** 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.





## Mountain Rescue

### Emergency Rescue Activities:

- ◆ 526 volunteers and 43 staff rescuers, organized in 32 rescue teams;
- ◆ Rendered assistance to over 1 878 persons, of whom 70% with severe injuries were transported to a hospital;
- ◆ 96 rescue operations in the high parts of the mountain with the participation of 713 rescuers;
- ◆ 5 air rescue operations via the cooperation agreement between BRC and Club „Active Security“ for helicopter rescue operations;
- ◆ Main Dispatch Center in Sofia – maintains 24/7 communication with the Unified Emergency System 112.

### Training Activities:

- ◆ Trainee mountain rescuers – winter and summer course – 57 persons;
- ◆ Mountain rescuers – winter and summer – 22 rescuers;
- ◆ Medical Staff – winter and summer – 38 participants;
- ◆ Difficult Terrain Rescue – 18 participants;

- ◆ Avalanche Rescue – 16 participants.
- ◆ 2 mountain rescuers trained for helicopter rescue operations;
- ◆ Training courses with rescue dogs:
  - Avalanche training for beginners – 17 rescuers with 13 dogs;
  - Avalanche training – 23 rescuers with 17 dogs;
  - Natural Disaster training – 26 participants with 21 dogs.
- ◆ Republican Winter Exercise – 96 participants.

### Prevention Activities:

- ◆ MRS maintains active contacts with both central and regional media. Implemented more than 4 900 and publications with participation of specialists from MRS.
- ◆ Daily updated website ([www.pss-bg.bg](http://www.pss-bg.bg)) with information on the operational situation in the mountains, with tips, tricks, and other useful information.
- ◆ The implementation of Mountain Health Insurance as a product of the big insurance companies.



## Water Life-Saving

### Drowning prevention:

- ◆ Trained in drowning prevention programs:
  - „Water lifesaving minimum“ – 57867;
  - „Friends with water“ – 4 161;
  - „Keep an eye on“ – 132;
  - „Blue summer“ – 357.
- ◆ Methodical educations – 71;
- ◆ Association of volunteer lifesavers – 34 with 1 218 members;
- ◆ Issued a new book „Handbook parent water safety“ for education program „Keep an eye on“;
- ◆ Partnership agreement with SPEEDO and DHL.

### Training of lifeguards:

- ◆ Trained lifeguards – 1 169 (753 – for swimming pools and water parks, 396 – for open water and sea aquatics, 15 – „Chief lifeguard“ and 5 – „Instructor“) and „Junior lifesaver“ – 25;
- ◆ Accreditations for lifeguards – 3 675;
- ◆ Rendered assistance to the Rumanian Red Cross for of volunteers for creation of Water Life-Saving Units.

### Methodical support and Lifeguard service management:

- ◆ Contracts for Lifeguard services for 20 surf beaches, 30 swimming pools and 1 Water Park.
- ◆ Rescue actions – 3 383;
- ◆ National Conference on Water Rescue – Varna.

### International and sport activities:

- ◆ Confirmed by the National Council of BRC „Development Program competition activities implementation out by Bulgarian Red Cross 2015 - 2018“.
- ◆ 4 National Life Saving tournaments with 572 competitors: „Children be lifesavers“ – Stara Zagora, „Lyuben Kantardzhiev“ – Veliko Tarnovo, „Junior lifesaver“ – Varna, Competition for swimming and water rescue – Veliko Tarnovo;
- ◆ 26 competitions participate in sport camp „Lifesaver of the future“.

### Participation in:

- ◆ ILSE and ILS Board meeting;
- ◆ ILSE commission meetings.

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## Bulgarian Red Cross Youth

### Organizational Development:

- ◆ 312 youth clubs in the 28 regions of the country, 5 288 members and 2 209 volunteers;
- ◆ Over 3 800 trained members and volunteers;
- ◆ **Summer Academy for Volunteers 2015.**

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

- ◆ 20 Youth Emergency Teams (YET) with 365 members and more than 180 campaigns and demonstrations;
- ◆ YET actively participate in disaster preparedness and relief efforts;
- ◆ Over 1 000 volunteers trained to provide first aid and 250 to render psychological first aid and psychosocial support;
- ◆ 358 school first aid teams with 1 514 members across the country;
- ◆ National Competition for School First Aid Teams;
- ◆ National First Aid and Psychosocial Support Training – **Winter Academy for Volunteers 2015.**

### Social Welfare Activities:

- ◆ 710 visits to 10 417 children and adults

living in social care institutions and community-based social services;

- ◆ Fund for Promotion of the Artistic Potential of Children with Special Needs – 17 scholarships;
- ◆ Community-based social services for children:
  - „The Colourful House“ Protected Home for Young People leaving institutional care – 25 young people have benefitted from the service;
  - Shelter for Homeless Children in Russe – 60 children;
  - Day Care Centre for Homeless Children in Russe – 41 children;
  - Family-type Protected Home for Children in Pazardjik – 16 children;
  - Day Care Centre for Homeless Children in Pazardjik – 37 children;
  - Community Support Centre for Children and Families in Dobrich – 43 children.
- ◆ 5 800 Christmas food packages for children at risk;
- ◆ Christmas visits and presents for hospitalized children across the country;
- ◆ Regular „Children Help Children“ charity campaigns.



◆ Partners for Social Change Programme, supported by the Velux Foundation and Danish Red Cross:

- Small Grants Scheme – funded **24** youth projects implemented in **15** regions;
- Psychosocial support workshops in schools for **6 677** students;
- Summer camps for refugee children and children at risk – **90** children.

#### Health Promotion:

- ◆ Promotion of reproductive health, prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually risky behaviour - information campaigns, trainings of volunteers and presentations in schools for more than **56 500** young people;
- ◆ 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 intravenous drug users;
- ◆ Substance Abuse Prevention - information campaigns and presentations in schools for more than **15 200** young people;
- ◆ Promotion of healthy lifestyle - information campaigns, presentations in schools and trainings for volunteers – **10 245** children and young people reached;
- ◆ Winner of the European Youth Network

Healthy Video Competition.

#### Dissemination of humanitarian values and principles; dissemination of International Humanitarian Law:

- ◆ Promotion Of Humanitarian Values – information campaigns, presentations in schools and trainings for volunteers – **9000** young 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 in the Steering Committee of the European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS);
- ◆ Annual ENPS Forum hosted by BRCY;
- ◆ BRCY participation in the Statutory Meetings of the Red Cross/Red Crescent;
- ◆ Participation in the International Youth Leadership Academy of the Danish Red Cross Youth, the International Study and Friendship Camp of the Austrian Red Cross Youth, the FIRE camp of Finnish Red Cross, etc.;
- ◆ Summer Academy for Volunteers with international participants hosted by BRCY.



## International Cooperation

**Effective cooperation with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), other Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, the Bulgarian MFA, foreign diplomatic missions to Bulgaria and others.**

- ◆ Participation in European and other Red Cross networks – the BRC is a member of **15** international networks and platforms - ENDOV, ILSE, AGE, FAEEN, ENPS, IKAR, ELSG, BPID, EPSG, RedViwo, ERNA, RFL, ATN, ECRE, PERCO;
- ◆ Existing MoUs and Cooperation Agreements with **24** National Societies. Particularly active cooperation with the Austrian, German, Danish, Dutch, Swiss and French Red Cross Societies;
- ◆ **18** Regional Organizations maintain cooperation with other National Societies. A new Memorandum for Cooperation signed between the Red Cross of Henan Province, Red Cross Society of China and the BRC regional branch - Veliko Tarnovo;
- ◆ **Participation in official forums and events** – BRC hosted over **55** visits by international partners. **230** representatives of BRC have participated in various international events:

- Statutory Meetings of the International Movement, including General Assembly of the IFRC, 32<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and the Council of Delegates;
- Reference Group of National Societies supporting the consultation process for Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation;
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Movement's Fundamental Principles, celebrated in Vienna, Austria;
- XVI<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Red Cross and health films in Varna.
- ◆ **Project Activities** – BRC is implementing **32** projects funded by external donors, out of which **17** funded by international donors;
- ◆ International disaster preparedness projects, implemented with support from DG ECHO:
  - **'PrepCAP'** project for improving the disaster preparedness of the Red Cross Societies of Ukraine and Belarus (together with the Austrian Red Cross and other European NSs, implementation continues);
  - **'PrepAge'** project for improving the



disaster preparedness of older people (being implemented together with the Austrian Red Cross and other European NSs, implementation continues);

- **'Aware and Resilient'** project for improving disaster preparedness at community level (together with the Austrian Red Cross and other European NSs, successfully finalized);
- Continuing the implementation of the project „**Prepared Together for DAC**“, funded by the Bulgarian-Swiss Cooperation Programme, which aims at capacity building and training of BRC Voluntary Disaster Response Teams in the districts of Vidin, Montana, Pernik.

◆ **International Assistance:**

- Financial support for the IFRC International Emergency Appeal to assist the victims of Nepal earthquake;
- Financial support for the Tajikistan Red Crescent Society to assist the population affected by the floods in July 2015;
- Humanitarian aid for the migrants and asylum seekers in Hungary, transported in October 2015;
- Two BRC representatives participated in missions to Greece and Slovenia as IFRC resource people.

◆ **Tracing Service:**

- **298** new cases of tracing persons, who have lost family contact due to armed conflicts and migration;
- **24** employees from regional Red Cross organizations trained to work on restoring family links.
- Participation in:
  - The Annual meeting of Tracing Services including **35** European NSs, ICRC, IFRC and NSs - observers from Australia, New Zealand, USA, Israel and Switzerland;
  - A roundtable in Skopje, Macedonia, titled „Migration - the new humanitarian challenge“;
  - Meeting at the ICRC's Regional Information Center for Restoring Family Links in Belgrade.

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

- IHL materials distributed to the faculties of law, journalism and medicine, as well as to other faculties of the universities in Sofia and in the country;
- Advisory assistance to national institutions with the aim of dissemination, implementation and enforcement of the existing international humanitarian provision.

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## Public Relations, Marketing, Fundraising and Publishing Activities

### Public Relations:

- ◆ Publications and broadcasts - **17 053**;
- ◆ BRC website – **180 104** visits;
- ◆ Facebook page of BRC and the Hot Meal Program – over **11 000** followers with approximately **5 500 000** visits.

### Editions of the BRC:

- ◆ Weekly electronic bulletin – **46** issues;
- ◆ „Facts and Figures“ 2014.

**XVI<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films**, Varna, 2015 – held under the patronage of the Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria Mrs. Margarita Popova.

### Fundraising for humanitarian causes:

- ◆ Campaign in support of the victims of the devastating earthquake in Nepal – raised **115 052 BGN**;
- ◆ Help for the Refugees in Bulgaria – **34 184 BGN**.
- ◆ Hot Meal Program – raised **146 534 BGN**, **1649** children from **26** regions in the country received a free hot meal each

school day;

- ◆ National Fund for Supporting Children, Victims of Traffic Accidents – with **47 300 BGN** are assisted **78** children from the county;
- ◆ Fund for Development of the Artistic Talents of Children with Special Needs - **13 734 BGN**;
- ◆ Fund for Supporting Victims of Disasters and Crises - **13 591 BGN**;
- ◆ National Charity Fund - raised **59 557 BGN**, **245** persons assisted;
- ◆ Protected Home for Children and Young People Leaving Social Care Institutions Colorful House – **14 984 BGN**.





## 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.





**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.**

**HOT MEAL PROGRAMME**

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

**HOME CARE PROGRAMME**

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

**CHARITY FUND**

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

**„COLOURFUL HOUSE“ PROGRAMME**

IBAN in BGN: BG16 UNCR 7630 1078 1514 60  
 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: 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  
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Facts and Figures on the activities of the Bulgarian Red Cross 2015



