

## **1359: The Hungarian Red Cross Calls for Solidarity**

*Donations can now be made through Hotline 1359*

***Budapest, 3 September, 2015 - The Hungarian Red Cross has set up a donation hotline, 1359, in order to increase its capacity to respond to the needs of migrants. Hungary's largest humanitarian organisation maintains first aid services in the capital city of Budapest, distributes sanitary packages, provides psychosocial support (PSS) and first aid service in the border town of Röszke, and is prepared to support those stranded at the train station in the town of Bicske with water distribution.***

At the moment, the Hungarian Red Cross funds its relief operations through support received from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which amounts to 322,365 Swiss francs HUF 92 million, as well as through smaller donations and restructuring its operational budget. The amount provided by the IFRC enables the Hungarian Red Cross to provide support to 72 thousand migrants, however, the funds are only sufficient until October.

The Hungarian Red Cross has therefore opened its 1359 hotline for donations in order to continue its humanitarian work among migrants in response to the growing needs. Anyone can donate HUF 250 to support the humanitarian response of the Hungarian Red Cross by calling the 1359 hotline, or texting the word 'ADOMANY' to the same number. The Hungarian Red Cross plans to obtain mobile containers and other equipment necessary to ensure continued health and psychosocial care to migrants in need arriving to the country. In addition, it will continue the distribution of hygiene packages and strengthen its first aid services.

Donations can also be made to the Hungarian Red Cross through the following bank account:

**Account Number: K&H Bank 10405004-00026548-00000009 (Note: Menekült)**

In the past weeks, the Hungarian Red Cross has been operating a 24-hour service at the immigration center in Röszke. Staff and volunteers of the Hungarian Red Cross, which is the largest humanitarian organization in Hungary, have been providing first aid and psychosocial support, and have been distributing hygiene packages to migrant families. The Budapest branch of the Hungarian Red Cross

has also been present at the transit area at Nyugati square since its opening, delivering first aid and supporting volunteer medical personnel through providing tents, equipment and medicine. The number of cases treated daily at this location has now reached over 100. The Hungarian Red Cross is also ready distribute water to those waiting at the train station in Bicske through mobilizing local Hungarian Red Cross volunteers.

The Hungarian Red Cross is also present at the camps in Debrecen and Vámoszabad, distributing donations and psychosocial support. It also provides donations in Nyírbátor, Nagyfa, Békéscsaba, Balassagyarmat and Kiskunhalas as needed by the Office of Immigration and Nationality and the police who operate the locations.

The Hungarian Red Cross has provided support to thousands of refugees arriving to Hungary in the past months.

The Hungarian Red Cross maintains that there are no “illegal human beings”, only “vulnerable people”, who have to be treated humanely regardless of their legal and administrative status.

**Hungarian Red Cross**