



RED NOSES
CLOWNDOCTORS
International



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

RED NOSES Clowndoctors International



Thank You!

Your support truly makes a difference
to many people's lives!

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A Growing Need for Humour

We are delighted and honoured to share our Annual Report 2017 with you.

In the past year, we have again witnessed a growing need for humour, happiness and human connection in our societies. Recent conflicts and natural disasters have resulted in exploding numbers of displaced persons. New digital technologies are changing the way people interact with each other. And with the present global ageing population on the rise, our health and social care systems are faced with greater challenges than ever before.

As a healthcare clowning organisation, RED NOSES International is able to support not only those who are ill, but also those who suffer displacement, are affected by conflicts and natural disasters and those whose basic human rights are not respected.

We use our everyday creativity and place the emotional wellbeing of individuals at the centre of our work. Our professional clown artists have the unique ability to connect with people on a deep human level, regardless of their origin and cultural background.

The power of humour and connection – this is what we share with humanitarian aid workers and local medical staff during our Emergency Smile missions in the field. Our know-how eases the pressure of their valuable and urgently needed work, and at the same time has a positive effect on the people they work with.

In the hospital, the clown also acts as an intermediary between medical staff and the patient, facilitating medical procedures, and reducing the patient's anxiety. This close connection proves to have many benefits for all involved, whether during a difficult treatment or prior to and after a surgery.

By sharing this annual report with you, we say thank you. Thank you to everyone who made our work possible! But most of all, thank you for supporting us and for helping us to spread the power of humour and laughter throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Franz Haimerl
CFO
RED NOSES Clowndoctors
International

Monica Culen
CEO and Founder
RED NOSES Clowndoctors
International

Giora Seeliger
Artistic Director and Founder
RED NOSES Clowndoctors
International

Why Clowns?

The figure of the clown greatly contributes to the empowerment of vulnerable groups. People can easily relate to and connect with the clown, a light-hearted and emotional character who constantly faces personal and emotional challenges.

The real power of the clown, however, lies in the ability to successfully deal with failures and turn them into personal victories. By reversing weak aspects into strong ones, healthcare clowning offers essential tools to aid in problem solving, acceptance and adaptation – all vital elements needed to empower people and help them manage their momentary circumstances.



What We Do

The Importance of Humour

RED NOSES places strong emphasis on reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in society – children, the elderly and people with disabilities.

We know that hospitalised children experience symptoms of anxiety and distress due to the unfamiliar environment, a temporary separation from the family, or possible painful procedures. In other institutions like refugee shelters and orphanages, children suffer similarly, but are in environments which are associated with decreased wellbeing and a generally diminished quality of life. Psychological needs have also been identified in elderly patients living in nursing homes and adult patients in rehabilitation centres.

Studies prove that humour promotes health at various levels. To be able to experience joy and laughter, even

perhaps just fleetingly, is not only a signal of wellbeing. From a broader perspective, these positive emotions are a vehicle for individual growth and social connection. Humour replaces negative feelings and experiences of adversity, enabling a person to think more openly and flexibly, allowing for creative problem solving. It also has the potential to construct a powerful emotional connection between two people, thus enhancing and stimulating social interactions. In general, humour helps to sustain the basic health and healing mechanisms a human being possesses.

Healthcare clowns can therefore be seen as complementary care providers who reduce anxiety and distress as well as simultaneously empowering children and adults to cope with feelings of feebleness.



Hospital staff appreciates the impact that RED NOSES Clowns have on the patients and welcome their entertaining visits.



Healthcare clowns know how to connect with little patients, reducing their anxiety and distress.

Promoting Human Rights

Besides hospitalised children, RED NOSES also addresses the emotional wellbeing of people with disabilities who often have to seek support in medical or social facilities. By integrating children with multiple disabilities into their sensory-friendly theatre performances, clowns open the floor to this special audience enabling them to connect and engage in very individual ways.

Having fled tragic circumstances such as conflicts or natural disasters, refugee children often face marginalisation and very specific socio-economic challenges. This can lead to behavioural problems, including aggression and depression. In working with refugees and Internally Displaced People in Europe and Jordan, our experiences show that clown doctor interventions provide a favourable opportunity to act out feelings in constructive ways. At the same time, clown performances can include a non-formal

educational component by incorporating messages that encourage children to find creative and non-violent solutions to the challenges they face in their everyday life.

RED NOSES aims at contributing to the development of compassionate, respectful and person-centred care for elderly patients. During the interactions, humour and sensitivity are used to connect with the elderly, integrating their personal history into the play. For older people, humour delivered directly at the bedside conveys a special message – an open acknowledgement that they are valuable members of society who deserve to receive compassionate attention.

Regardless of their ailment, RED NOSES programmes fully support the child's right to play, to take part in cultural and artistic activities and the right to health and healthcare. RED NOSES activities also ensure the rights of people with disabilities plus the rights of the elderly.

About us

Founded in 1994 in Austria, RED NOSES Clowndoctors is an independent non-profit organisation that brings humour and laughter to people in need of joy. It is now represented by partner organisations in ten countries.

The headquarters of the RED NOSES group, RED NOSES Clowndoctors International (RNI), is also based in Vienna, and as a charitable foundation, its tasks are to build up, monitor and support its partner organisations. In doing so, RED NOSES simultaneously develops and maintains high ethical and artistic quality standards in all its clown programmes.

Facts and Figures

Throughout the years, healthcare clowning has increasingly become recognised as an important complementary approach in the overall healing process. In fact, healthcare clowning is matchless in its ability to connect people and engage them in participatory artistic performances. In all cases, be it visits to hospitalised children, refugees, persons with disabilities or senior citizens, all beneficiaries enthusiastically play a role in the clown interventions.

RED NOSES clowns actively work to bring humour and laughter to people in need of joy. Numbers speak for themselves! Just look at the positive impact all our clowns have on society.

Thank you for making it possible!



517,924

young and elderly patients



764

medical and social institutions



10

countries of operation



15,769

clown visits



371

professionally trained clowns



24+

years of expertise



Capacity Building and Training

Personnel and organisational development, as well as the training and education of our healthcare clowns are crucial components required for the healthy growth and adaptability of the RED NOSES partner organisations. RNI continuously facilitates this process with several activities throughout the year.

Capacity Building

RED NOSES Clowndoctors International helps to build capacity of local RED NOSES organisations by providing practical support in training and quality management. As the headquarters, it further delivers strategic guidance, regular monitoring and general support for the implementation and development of local programmes. Apart from high artistic and ethical standards, an international controlling system guarantees the financial transparency and accountability of the entire organisation.

Training for Fundraising and Communication Staff

In order to enhance the financial stability of the group, RNI launched “FRISH,” a learning platform for Fundraising and Public Relations staff. It is held twice a year in the premises of RNI’s International School of Humour (ISH). The aim is to exchange know-how and streamline resources to raise awareness for the needs of our target groups.

Leadership Training

The RED NOSES leadership team meets biannually to exchange ideas on common topics, enhance leadership skills and discuss the main strategic pillars of the group. RNI headquarters hosts these meetings every spring and autumn (April 2017 and October 2017).



Experts share their knowledge with the Communication and Fundraising team.



Artistic Training

After the initial audition and selection phases, our professional artists undertake rigorous and ongoing training. This includes attending local workshops in the respective partner organisations, as well as workshops held at the RED NOSES International School of Humour (ISH), which is located in Vienna.

RNI strongly supports artistic exchange programmes between the partner organisations and also offers the clowns artistic supervision. A uniform certification process ensures the standardisation and artistic quality of the work.

Training for Crisis Areas

Clowns partaking in the international Emergency Smile team require special training in order to work in crisis situations and with traumatised people. Once on the ground, the clown team combines a variety of existing formats to engage with their audience, like bedside-to-bedside visits in hospitals or circus workshops with children.

In addition, they are trained to create clown shows that evolve around local issues and have the potential to convey non-formal educational content and important life skills, such as solution finding, how to express empathy or emotions, how to think creatively and how to relate to others. Clowns also hold humour seminars for local medical staff and humanitarian aid workers.

Implementing New Formats


The work of healthcare clowns in the social and healthcare environment is very audience-focussed by nature. With the support of RNI, new formats are continuously being introduced by our partner organisations, such as Intensive Smile in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Poland and the Caravan Orchestra (CarO) in Croatia. All programmes and formats require specialised training in order for the different audiences to reap the benefits.

RED NOSES World

After RED NOSES was established in Austria in 1994, its management started to receive an increasing number of urgent requests from other clown organisations abroad.






They all asked for our expertise support in developing professional clown care programmes. RED NOSES has gradually evolved over the years, always being aware that high artistic quality and a sustainable organisational setup constitute the solid foundation for a functioning clown organisation.

Today, RED NOSES Clowndoctors is one of the largest clown doctor groups in the world with partner organisations in 10 countries. In 2017, our international team of 371 RNI clowns brought joy and laughter to almost 518,000 people every day – and that in more than 760 medical and social institutions!

-  RED NOSES Partner Organization 2017
-  Countries where RED NOSES carried out an Emergency Smile mission in 2017
-  The Middle East Region
-  Number of patients
-  Number of clown visits
-  Social and medical facilities
-  Number of clowns
-  Established

Germany

ROTE NASEN Deutschland e. V.

-  35,046
-  1,182
-  38
-  26
-  2003

Poland

CZERWONE NOSKI

-  12,847
-  410
-  18
-  18
-  2012

Lithuania

RAUDONOS NOSYS

-  25,057
-  388
-  31
-  11
-  2013

Czech Republic

ZDRAVOTNÍ KLAUN

-  72,150
-  3,683
-  152
-  89
-  2001






Slovakia

ČERVENÝ NOS

-  72,244
-  2,612
-  121
-  58
-  2004

Austria

ROTE NASEN Clowndoctors

-  168,148
-  4,125
-  229
-  73
-  1994

Slovenia

RDEČI NOSKI

-  47,339
-  988
-  51
-  15
-  2004

Hungary

PIROS ORR

-  33,833
-  1,149
-  33
-  30
-  1996

Croatia

CRVENI NOSOVI

-  33,823
-  612
-  75
-  25
-  2010

Ukraine

Emergency Smile July 2017



Ukraine: Circus workshop with Internally Displaced People.



Our presence in Jordan is also needed in refugee camps and host communities.

Sierra Leone

Emergency Smile November 2017



Sierra Leone: RED NOSES sharing the power of humour with hospital staff.

Palestine

RED NOSES Palestine

-  17,437
-  509
-  12
-  16
-  2012

Jordan

RNI International Project

-  111
-  4
-  10

registered since 2017

RED NOSES International Highlights

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Psychosocial support through clown interventions in hospitals but also refugee camps and community centers.

International Project in Jordan

Given the great influx of refugees into Jordan, the focus of this project is twofold. Not only is the spotlight on the refugees, but also the local communities are given special attention in order to help offset the impact of migration on the local social fabric.

As witnessed during our Emergency Smile missions to Jordan in October 2014 and January 2015, clown doctor performances have the potential to offer a sense of “normality” in abnormal situations. This helps to alleviate fear and distress within the refugee community. It is this unparalleled interaction between the clown doctors and the children, which creates a supportive environment since the children are fully included in the process. They gain more self-confidence and courage, elements fundamental for their psychosocial wellbeing.

In 2017 we visited children in the King Hussein Cancer Center and the Caritas Refugee Centers, as well as young patients in the Al-Mowasa Reconstructive Surgical Hospital, which is run by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France.



RED NOSES clowns share their expertise with humanitarian aid workers and local hospital staff (e.g. in Sierra Leone) so they can integrate humour in their stressful daily work.

Empowering Medical Staff

Year after year, humanitarian organisations provide lifesaving services in critical areas. The healthcare staff works uninterruptedly under lots of stress and tension. This immense burden quickly leads to burnout syndrome.

Exactly for this reason, RED NOSES felt they had an obligation to share their humour expertise with healthcare staff. In special workshops, the clowns show how to integrate playfulness and humour into daily work routines, reducing stress levels for patients and medical staff alike.

With easy tricks, medical equipment is transformed into puppets or fantasy figures that trigger the imagination and evoke humour.

Our presence and our humorous activities are warmly welcomed by the local medical staff and humanitarian aid workers, showing that the visible positive impact of our work is appreciated by everyone.

Emergency Smile Missions in 2017

During the course of the year, RED NOSES conducted two Emergency Smile missions. This was done in cooperation with the two international humanitarian aid organisations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

In July a specially trained clown team worked with people who were affected by the Ukraine conflict and had fled to the area of Kiev. Developed in several workshops clowns designed circus shows together with internally displaced children, leading to wonderful performances. Kids and parents alike were proud of the newly developed skills and freshly discovered talents of every participant. Later on in November, another clown team left for Sierra Leone, a country which has some of the worst health indicators in the world (according to the UN Human Development Report 2016), particularly for maternal and child mortality. Our international clown team visited the Kabala District Hospital plus villages in the neighbouring region. They were able to aid the local healthcare staff in their psychosocial support activities.

Assisting during Medical Procedures

When facing difficult treatments or even operations, hospitalised children often become anxious and afraid. These unpleasant emotions can in fact intensify any feelings of pain. Within the programme Intensive Smile, RED NOSES clowns create a unique link between the medical staff and their patients. Their presence inspires a calming atmosphere diverting the focus away from the procedure.

With the help of RNI, Intensive Smile was implemented in Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary and Poland and further expanded in Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia during 2017. It was made possible with the generous support and motivation of 160 C&A employees, who showed their best athletic and charitable performance at the Vienna City Marathon. The C&A Foundation donated € 3,000 for each relay team taking part in the event. The incredible total amount of € 120,000 was then dedicated to the new programme, Intensive Smile.



Our interventions are loved by internally displaced families (e.g. in Ukraine) because our clowns create an environment where children feel relaxed and safe to play in.



In close partnership with medical staff, clowns help to relieve children's fear of difficult treatments.

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Highlights from our Partner Organisations



The RED NOSES Summer Circus brought together refugee children and local families to enjoy a week-long circus workshop.

Austria

Loyal Partnerships and Project Premieres

The year 2017 was a year full of anniversaries for ROTE NASEN in Austria. Working closely with numerous healthcare institutions on a long-term basis, they celebrated their 20-year anniversary at three hospitals situated in Vienna, Lower Austria and Styria.

Another major focus lay on the development of clown programmes, premiering with the new RED NOSES Summer Circus celebrated in Carinthia and Lower Austria. The latest project of Emergency Smile Austria invites children and adolescents from refugee families to experience a one-week circus workshop together with local participants. The ultimate goal is to reduce prejudices and build relationships using humour as a medium.



Experts from ZDRAVOTNI KLAUN give lectures to medical students on how to include humour in their communication with patients and caretakers.

Czech Republic

Lectures at Medical Faculty

ZDRAVOTNÌ KLAUN expanded and intensified their lectures at the Faculty of Medicine during 2017.

They focussed on how to develop joyful and playful communication not only with patients but also with family members and caregivers.

Our colleagues also started a new programme for senior citizens, "Varieté," which began with two pilot shows in Brno and Prague. Together with clowns, the elderly create a cheerful show by putting the spotlight on their youth and reviving forgotten hobbies and talents like ballet dancing.

For the second time running, the clown doctors conducted their exciting "Tour Full of Laughter." During a period of 4 days they visited sick children and seniors all over the country, reaching eight facilities which they otherwise only visit irregularly.

Croatia

New Programme, New Clowns, High Recognition

Besides discovering six new talented clown doctors, CRVENI NOSOVI successfully increased the number of regular clown visits in paediatric and oncology wards in Zagreb, Rijeka and Split, and started work in a new elderly home in the capital city and in new hospitals in Vukovar and Vinkovci.

The Caravan Orchestra, a programme addressing children with mental and multiple disabilities was opened and already proudly won the award "My Zaba Start." This secured its funding for the year 2018. The first pilot projects of Intensive Smile and Humour in Healthcare successfully began in 2017.

Hungary

A Landmark Anniversary

"Happy 20th anniversary!" to our Hungarian colleagues at PIROS ORR. In addition to celebrations, they welcomed new clowns on board to strengthen the team. This enabled more fun-filled visits to two new hospitals, guaranteeing the continuation of visits in the northern and central parts of the country. After many years of great leadership, the founder Janós Greifenstein handed over his tasks to the incoming artistic director, Tünde Gelencsér. Acknowledging their exceptional achievements, 19 clowns in the Hungarian team met all requirements of the RED NOSES curriculum and received their certification last year.

Lithuania

New Geriatric Pilot Programme

RAUDONOS NOSYS started the geriatric pilot programme in one of the largest geriatric facilities in Vilnius in 2017. Every week they now visit all 260 senior citizens. The Mayor of Vilnius, Remigijus Šimašius, publicly acknowledged the healthcare clowning organisation for its activities at a special event celebrating various outstanding projects in the city.

As Lithuania has no tradition in clowning, RED NOSES took on the responsibility of introducing young talented performers to the art of clowning. They also started building an artist community in Kaunas, where the next team of clown doctors will be established.



New clowns were necessary to meet the increased demand of joyful bedside visits in Croatia.



PIROS ORR has been bringing joy and laughter to hospitalised children in Hungary for 20 years.



The Mayor of Vilnius city, Remigijus Šimašius, acknowledges RAUDONOS NOSYS for its positive impact on hospitalised children.

Germany

New Milestones

Last year, ROTE NASEN Deutschland e.V. set a milestone by consolidating a cooperation with the German health insurance company “BKK – Betriebskrankenkassen.” This underlines the importance of professional health-care clowning being part of the fulfilment of the prevention strategy concerning mental health and wellbeing. ROTE NASEN also implemented the Intensive Smile format at the hospitals Deutsches Herzzentrum, Berlin, Klinikum Ernst von Bergmann and Berlin Charité, which reduces stress and pain by creating a more relaxed atmosphere during difficult treatments for children. The RED NOSES International Camp took place in June when 180 clowns gathered at Werbellinsee near Berlin. They experienced days packed with an array of artistic educational sessions including seminars on “Trauma and Flight” and “Dementia,” as well as workshops on acrobatics and miming.



ROTE NASEN clown visits to elderly people are now part of the prevention strategy of BKK, the German health insurance company.

Palestine

Important Development

Besides their regular visits to children’s wards, RED NOSES Palestine (RNPS) started visiting Rafidia Hospital in Nablus. Furthermore first pilot rounds also took off in the geriatric ward at the St. Nicolas House for Elderly. The necessity for these visits emphasises the needs elderly people have when they are not provided with enough psychological support.

The healthcare clown organisation also realised a pilot project for rehabilitation patients at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre (JPBC), interacting with more than 560 children and parents during 12 visits. Consequently, RED NOSES Palestine increased their clown team, welcoming in three more young artists in 2017. This important step was made possible thanks to the support of the Austrian Development Agency, the operational unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation.



RED NOSES is improving the quality of life of senior citizens at the St. Nicolas House for Elderly in Palestine.



Poland

Continuity and Stability

Artists from CZERWONE NOSKI continued their regular visits to 8 hospitals in Warsaw, Wrocław, Kraków, Poznań and Łódź, interacting with more than 12,800 children during the year. A total of 15 outreach visits were carried out at hospitals in Katowice, Zabrze, Szczecin, Olsztyn, Lublin, Radziszów, Jelenia Góra, and also two new paediatric hospitals in Warsaw. In November they successfully held two “Supersprawni” Circus Patientus shows, which were prepared solely by sick children with the help of the clowns. One was entitled “Underwater World” and the other “Circus in Hospital.” As in past years, CZERWONE NOSKI was a partner of the International Festival of Children’s Theatres in Wrocław. Within the framework of the festival, the clowns made visits to the local hospice home.



CZERWONE NOSKI empowered more than 12,800 children at their bedside in 2017.

Slovenia

Healthcare Workshops for Medical Staff

RDEČI NOSKI was invited to take part in a two-day seminar for medical staff at the Paediatric Clinic, Ljubljana in 2017. They began by giving the medical staff healthcare workshops titled “Non-traumatic treatment for children and youngsters.” Since they received very positive feedback, the cooperation will continue.

Last year RDEČI NOSKI implemented two new formats at the Paediatric Clinic in Ljubljana: “Dežurni klovn” (Intensive Smile) at the Surgery Department and Allergology Department, assisting sick children before and after surgeries and difficult examinations; and an adapted version of the Circus Patientus format at the Paedopsychiatry Department.



RDEČI NOSKI held a workshop teaching medical staff how to integrate playfulness and humour in treatments involving children.

Slovakia

Contribution to Mental Health

Last year ČERVENÝ NOS won a prestigious award from the Slovak Ombudsman, Mária Patakyová, which was presented on the International Day of Human Rights. She appreciated the energy of all 58 clown doctors and their contribution to the improvement of the wellbeing of children, seniors and adults, as well as for protecting human rights.

The organisation initiated new pilot program – regular visits to the Women’s Psychiatric Clinic in Pezinok, due to the intense support from the head of the department and overwhelming feedback from patients. The format “N.O.S.” (Intensive Smile) was extended in the Children’s Surgery in Bratislava and the clown accompany children to operations three times a week.



ČERVENÝ NOS received an award for their hard work from Ombudsman Mária Patakyová.

Who are the People in Need of Joy?



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Children

RED NOSES promotes a fundamental right for sick children and children with disabilities: their right to play. As play affects cognitive development, this basic right is essential for the advancement and overall wellbeing of all children. Our healthcare clowns, who always work in pairs, trigger the playful nature of children. The encounter encourages stimulation, providing opportunities for the children to actively participate.



In rehabilitation centres clowns have a positive effect on the recovery process of children.

Bedside Visits

The clown visits also have an important impact on the psychosocial wellbeing and the recovery process of the children. Professional clowns know how to create a positive and supportive atmosphere in the hospital room, which can uplift the emotional state, promoting the healing process and the acceptance of medical treatments. Their visits at the bedside energise children to return to their natural playfulness and to give them the much-needed impetus for self-confidence and courage. Before each visit, a handover with the medical staff is required in order to be aware of the specific needs of their audience.

Intensive Smile

RED NOSES clowns have become more and more integrated into the treatments and therapies of young patients. Their presence inspires a calm atmosphere reducing anxiety or fear and diverting the focus away from the medical procedure. The interaction with the clowns reduces the child's awareness of pain and also promotes coping mechanisms for stress. This way, everyone involved experiences these intense situations with more ease.

Rehabilitation Programme

In rehabilitation, both children and even sometimes adults, go through a rigorous regime of treatments in order to recover. Medical treatment alone is often too little. Therefore healthcare clowns offer respite to the patient's intense therapeutic schedules, bringing a breath of fresh air to the procedures. This is a significant aspect as it helps a patient to accept their new situation and develop mental strength to continue with what seem like sheer endless therapies.



Using humour in a sensitive and caring manner, our clowns provide relief during treatments with highly stressful moments.

Circus Patientus

The focus of long-term paediatric patients lies predominantly on their illness, which has a negative impact on their self-confidence and can cause feelings of inadequacy and depression to arise. The clowns together with the children produce a fantastic show during a five-day period. All the children who participate are empowered, bringing back the lightness of childhood and the levity of joyful playing.

Caravan Orchestra

Caravan Orchestra is a tailor-made musical theatre, dedicated to the needs of multiply disabled children and youth. It provides them with access to cultural activities within the social facilities in which they are schooled and cared for. Many of these children are often overwhelmed with all the input they receive in everyday life. For this reason the clowns have to be exceptionally sensitive and compassionate with these audiences. During the performance the children have the opportunity to comprehend and express their feelings in their own time and in their own way.



Caravan Orchestra: the clowns are compassionate and sensitive when engaging children with multiple disabilities in their play.

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The Elderly

Demographic changes and an ageing population are great challenges for modern societies. Although the proportion of older persons globally is constantly growing, their rights and the acknowledgement of their needs are often not sufficiently addressed. The goal should not only be to prolong life through scientific advances, but it should also be to secure good quality of life, including participation in and access to arts and cultural activities for the elderly.

Regular Visits

The RED NOSES Senior Programme connects with the general wellbeing of elderly persons, who very often live in senior citizen facilities for many years. Normally they lose their active role in society and become disconnected due to their limitations of perception and mobility. We seek to improve their quality of life, including participation in and access to the arts and cultural activities. Medical staff is nowadays increasingly aware that clowning successfully supports the mobilisation of people with dementia, depression and chronically ill elderly patients. Moreover they confirm that regular

clown visits by RED NOSES contributes to an increase in the quality of life of the elderly and people in need of care. This invariably increases their wish to actively participate in life.

Clowns meet the senior citizens individually at their bedside, with respect and empathy, integrating the personal history of the other and activating all their senses. That means singing songs together, recalling familiar smells, sharing recipes, connecting with memories from their “golden years” or dancing a gentle waltz. In engaging elderly people in a variety of activities, clowns reveal long-forgotten abilities and create a sense of belonging.



Clowns meet the senior citizens individually at their bedside, with empathy and respect, thus creating a sense of belonging.



Variété: Together with clowns the elderly people proudly demonstrate their rediscovered talents in a circus-style show.

RED NOSES Variété

Besides regular visits at the bedside of elderly people, RED NOSES developed the “Variété” show to increase the quality of life for senior citizens in care facilities. This format actively seeks to answer the needs of the elderly, such as reduced mobility and social isolation.

The Variété workshops last 3 to 5 days and are adapted to the individual capacities of the participants. The clown artists encourage the elderly participants to rediscover old talents and try out new artistic tricks, be it dance, magic, acrobatics or music. Each of the elderly “circus artists” can develop a small circus act that showcases his or her abilities, talents and personal history. On the last day of the workshop, the participants present their acts in a final show in front of their families, caretakers and cohabitants against the backdrop of a circus setting. This engagement in the arts brings back the zest for life and strengthens the self-confidence of older adults in residential care.

People in Crisis Areas

Especially in crisis situations, RED NOSES can respond to the immense need for psychosocial support with its innovative programme, Emergency Smile. In multi-week missions, clowns support children and their families.

These are people who have lost almost everything, who have witnessed and survived conflicts or natural disasters, who were forced to migrate, and who live in dire and stressful situations. They associate happiness and joy with a reality that no longer exists.

Often, children are too small to understand the traumatic incidences that so heavily affect their families' lives, and consequently cannot process them adequately using words.

With our artistic and interactive clown interventions, the children are given the possibility to express their feelings in a playful manner. The clowns can trigger a shift of focus, concentrating on the positive, the strength and the abilities of the children. The reconnection to positive feelings helps to regain resilience and hope.

The clown interventions have an important impact on the emotional wellbeing of parents and other relatives too. The families of the children feel relieved and less tense when they see that their children can laugh despite the hardship. Laughter is crucial in seemingly hopeless circumstances as it liberates the ability to feel emotions again. The clown succeeds in doing this without forcing to re-experience hurtful feelings.



Sierra Leone: Clowns perform a fun-filled show with educational content on the importance of seeking healthcare services at the right time.



During clown interventions (e.g. in Greece) refugee children can express their feelings in a playful way.



Ukraine: The shift of focus to something positive is crucial in difficult and seemingly hopeless situations in order to regain resilience and hope.



Our Impact

"The work you do is just as important for the target group as the work we do on the ground. Just one performance has a huge impact on refugees and migrants. It changes something, intangible but still real."

Dr. Jeya Kulasingam,
Health & Care delegate – Migration response, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

"The clowns from Red Noses International brought laughter to patients and MSF staff alike. The value of this kind of visit for people's wellbeing can't be underestimated."

Edda Bambach,
Human Resources Coordinator in Sierra Leone, Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF)

"Your assistance is an invaluable contribution to the development of psychosocial activities by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and certainly a tangible support in the dissemination of information about methods and forms of psychosocial support. Thanks to the received good expertise, the URCS will be able to achieve great results in improving the welfare of the beneficiaries affected by the crisis."

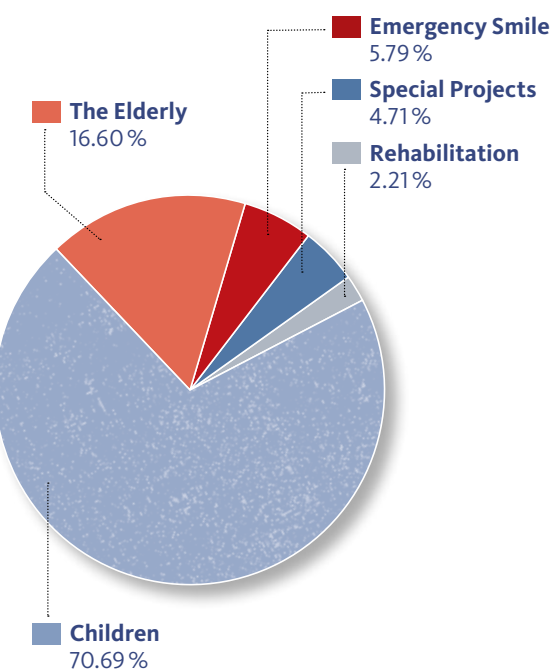
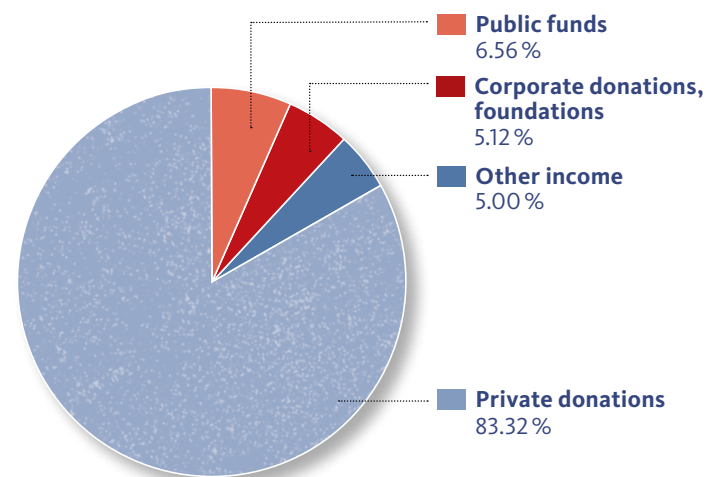
Mrs. Liliia Bilous,
Director General, Ukrainian Red Cross Society / National Committee

Financial Report 2017 of the RED NOSES Group

One of the crucial requirements needed to guarantee the healthy development of the RED NOSES Group is strong financial stability. This also establishes the Group as a reliable partner in the healthcare environment. Without adequate funding, we could never make an impact nor give the necessary psychological support to people in need of joy by using the power of humour.

Our Income by Sources of Funding

As in previous years, the work performed by RED NOSES in 2017 was predominately financed by private donations. Other key sources came from public funds, for example local tax campaigns. But in order to have greater impact on our beneficiaries within larger international projects in the future, we will increasingly need to rely on partnerships with foundations, corporations and international organisations.



Our Expenses on Programme Level

Visiting hospitalised children has always been our core competence, therefore almost three-quarters of our expenses are used on the children's programme. This encompasses our regular visits at the bedside, as well as our **Circus Patientus** format for long-term paediatric patients, the **Intensive Smile** format for psychosocial support during medical procedures and the **Caravan Orchestra** for children with mental and multiple disabilities.

Another big portion of our expenditures is used for our clown visits improving the wellbeing of **elderly people** in geriatric wards or senior citizen facilities, including our **Varité** format. A smaller part of our expenditures goes toward clown visits to adults in **rehabilitation centres**.

In upcoming years, our local and international **Emergency Smile** missions will grow significantly due to forgotten and recent conflicts as well as natural disasters which are increasing the number of displaced people.

Special projects like our activities in Jordan, **outreach** visits to specific institutions or visits to seriously ill children in home care, will be a sector demanding increased future investment.

RED NOSES Clowndoctors International



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www.rednoses.eu

RED NOSES is an artistic organisation bringing humour and laughter to people in need of joy.

For more than 20 years, RED NOSES has been making a difference for patients, families and medical staff in countless health and care facilities in Europe and beyond.

RED NOSES International (RNI) empowers vulnerable audiences, such as children in hospitals, people in geriatric centres, patients in rehabilitation centres, youth with mental and multiple disabilities, refugees and other displaced persons.

The figure of the clown is extremely human and touches individuals deeply by bringing them relief and hope in moments where they cannot connect to their positive emotions.

RNI is based in Vienna, Austria, and is the headquarters for one of the largest clown doctor groups in the world.

www.rednoses.eu



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