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### Picture of the week on instagram

70 Motorcycles from the MDA Medicycle unit in a salute to the 70 years of the state of Israel



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An exciting news?

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[info@mda.org.il](mailto:info@mda.org.il)



## *Happy New Year*

**Dear Magen David Adom family and friends,**

The employees, volunteers, national and civil services, pensioners, members of the Friends Societies and all involved in this field of lifesaving in the State of Israel.

Standing at the edge of the New Year, we wish you and all your loved ones Shana Tova, a year full of good deeds and fulfillment, of good health and peace.

The light, the joy and the blessing you bring to hundreds of thousands of homes in Israel and around the world is invaluable. The dedication, professionalism and compassion will continue to be the heart of Magen David Adom, Israel's national rescue organization, next year as well.

We thank you for the blessed work you continue to do, helping us save lives in Israel.

**Rabbi Avraham Manela**  
Executive Chairman  
MDA

**Eli Bin**  
Director General  
MDA

**Avi Zohar**  
President  
MDA

## Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte at MDA



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte arrived this evening for a visit in honor of Magen David Adom in Jerusalem. During his visit, the President joined MDA Director-General Eli Bin to tour MDA's 101 Dispatch Center in the Jerusalem region and even witnessed a drill of a mass casualty incident and the operational activities of MDA.

It is not coincidental that the President of the Philippines requested a visit to the MDA during his visit to Israel, since the MDA and the Philippine Red Cross have been working closely together since Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) struck the Philippines five years ago. As part of this cooperation, MDA personnel have trained Filipino Red Cross personnel on the Israeli model of emergency medicine medics, certifying them as medical instructors and teaching them how the MDA copes with mass casualty events.



As noted, during his visit to the MDA President Duterte learned about the MDA's control and command system, which plays a significant part of MDA's cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross. This past May, the chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, Senator Richard Gordon, visited MDA during his visit. He asked MDA for assistance in implementing the unique control and control system developed by MDA throughout the Philippines.



The system is currently being integrated in the Philippine Red Army headquarters, providing a response regarding the availability of rescue vehicles and the resources available to respond to the event, the activation of the community on call staff and the management of the operational response, including the possibility of the organization's managers to monitor the activity, especially in the event of a mass casualty event. MDA is making the necessary adjustments to facilitate the integration of the system in the Philippines. The MDA system is expected to be active and operational in the greater Manila area that covers 24 million residents by the end of November. The President also showed interest responses to a mass casualty event and on the treatment of victims of terrorist attacks. Prior to the cooperation with MDA, the Philippines had no organized doctrine for responding to a mass casualty event, and no doctrine regarding collaborate efforts of all rescue



forces at the scene. The MDA team presented to the President the MDA response during the first minutes of a terrorist attack, and particularly arena management, collaborative work with the police sappers, triage, treatment and rapid removal of victims from the scene of the attack, in order to allow other security forces to perform their job. President Duterte was extremely impressed by MDA's modus operandi.

Senator Richard Gordon, the Chairman of the Philippine Red Cross: "I was deeply impressed by what I have seen and by your ability with regards to handling emergency events and in saving lives. We have much to learn from you. I am thrilled to announce that by November, the city of Manila will be networked with the MDA operating system - the results of a productive long-standing cooperation."

## Towards the Opening of the High-Speed Train Line to Jerusalem: MDA Participated in a Fire drill to Examine Cooperation with the Emergency and Security Forces

After the holidays, the high-speed line to Jerusalem is expected to open on the Israel Railways. A joint drill for the Israel Railways, the Israel Police, Magen David Adom and the Fire Department was held on Monday, September 3rd, as part of the preparations to establish cooperation and ability to deal with emergencies. As part of the drill, which was run by the Israel Police, all of Israel's national rescue and security forces collaborated together in various scenarios on the railway of the Israel Railways, with an emphasis on fire related incidents with injuries that took place on the train.



Photos: Yosef Cassuto,  
Baruch Weisman  
and Issachar Weiss-  
MDA operational  
photographers unit

**Magen David Adom Presents:**

**Summary of the Year 5778 in Numbers**

**783** Blood unites are donated every day

**870,000** Emergency launches

**600** Medicycles

**200** Electric bikes

**1,094** Ambulances and MICUs

**166** MDA stations

**1 Million** emergency calls

**2** Helicopters

**30** Electric cars

**20,000** Life Guardians

**22,000** Active volunteers



## This Year Everyone will sit Happily around the Holiday Table

Like every year, workers and volunteers come to the help of the needy and in recent weeks launched donation campaign "Honey and Wine" in which hundreds of food parcels were collected and transferred to underprivileged families. Employees and volunteers were waiting for buyers at big grocery stores from morning till night, collected, packaged and distributed, and in the coming days will begin distributing packages throughout the country. This exciting initiative also followed and swapped by others and every year institutions, companies and even students from various schools in the country are joining the project of food collecting.



**ראש השנה באם חוזלים בקבלו**

סוגי חמוץ הנדרשים:

- דבש
- מין ענבים - תירוש
- קמח/סוג
- סוכר
- קוקולד
- רבה
- עגרת / עגרת
- עוגת / עוגת
- קפה שחור / גם קפה

אנשי מיהא ומתוקה  
כל עם ישראל

Photo: MDA Spokesmen



## Prof. Shinar in Argentina: This is How the Israeli Blood Services System Works

During the month of August, Prof. Eilat Shinar, Director of MDA Blood Services in Israel, visited Argentina, where she held a number of meetings, organised and supported by the Israeli Embassy, with leading persons in the Ministry of Health of Argentina. In these meetings she presented to different local professional forums the structures and functions of the EMS and the Blood system in MDA in Israel and the new technologies in the organization.

The blood system in Argentina is different from the one in Israel, as it is not centralized and integrated, and every hospital, whether public or private, takes care of its own blood inventory by requiring patients to bring "replacement blood donors" - friends or family members. The quality and safety of such blood units (some of which may be even donated by "paid donors") may bare an increased risk for the blood recipients. The "replacement blood donors" method, which was practiced in Israel decades ago, was longed replaced by building a strong and stable database of volunteer donors, which complies with the World Health Organization's goal, to reach 100% of volunteer, non-remunerated blood donors (VNRBD) by 2020 worldwide, with the only purpose - to save lives of patients who need blood transfusions to survive.

Prof. Shinar met with the Minister of Health (MOH) of Argentina, Dr. Adolfo Rubinstein, Dr. Mabel Maschio- who is the responsible Director for Hemotherapy and Blood Transfusion in the MOH, members of the Board of Directors of the Advisory Committee to the MOH on Blood Transfusion (AAHI) and directors of blood banks in Argentina. They were all very interested in the way the blood system operates in Israel, and learned about the important connection and cooperation between the Blood Services and the Emergency Medical System (EMS), during and in response to emergency situations and multi-casualty events.

During her stay in Argentina, Prof. Shinar participated in a very exciting visit, orchestrated by Mr.Gaston Scolnik, to the northern province of Tucumán, where Argentina's independence was declared in 1816. The Governor of Tucumán, Dr. Mansour, is a Lebanese-Maronite physician, a great friend of Israel, who invited a delegation led by Israel's Ambassador in Argentina, his Excellency Mr. Ilan Sztulman, to salute Israel. For Prof. Shinar this was a reciprocal visit, to the small delegation that visited MDA two weeks earlier, and included the Defence and Production Ministers of Tucumán. Prof. Shinar presented MDA's work to about 150 people, employees of EMS and blood banks in hospitals throughout the province, at the conference headed by the Minister of Health, Dr. Rossana Chahla, and the Minister of Defence of Tucuman. This special day ended by an impressive concert by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

The last conference was sponsored by the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, headed by Dr. Maschio and Dr. Javier O'Donnell, Deputy Minister of Health for Quality, Regulatory and Fiscalization Affairs, and 25 managers of blood banks from public and private hospitals in the city. The work of MDA Blood Services in the management and operation of a volunteer donation system, the preparation of the different blood components and the testing in the different laboratories while meeting the quality and safety standards were presented to the participants, who showed great interest and desire to adopt some of the methods used in Israel (perhaps as a pilot in one of the Argentine provinces) in order to improve the quality and safety of the blood.

It was agreed between all parties that an attempt would be made to preserve the connection that had been created, including during the upcoming visit of the governor of Tucumán and hopefully also the Minister of Health and other representatives.

In the picture from Tucuman: the second from the right is the governor-Dr. Mansur, to his left the Israeli Amasser Mr. Sztulman, standing next to Mr. Duvdevani, the new chairman of the World Zionist Organization. Next to me is the Minister of Health of Tucumna, Dr. Rossana Chahla.



Blood Bank and Emergency Services Lecture in Tucumán

Blood Bank Managers Lecture in the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires

Argentinian Minister of Health Gr Rubinstein, in charge of the Ministry of Health Blood Transfusions

Official Photos with Dignitaries from Tucumán

Lecture in Tucumán with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Defense

## Another University in the Paramedics Exchange Program



This week senior representatives from the Emergency Medicine Program at the HAN University in the Netherlands visited at the paramedic education center. These representatives are the pioneer force behind the establishment of the student exchange program.

During the program, the Dutch students will receive training on the MDA intensive care ambulances as part of the university's academic curriculum.

As part of the visit, the representatives toured the paramedic education center in Ramat Gan, learned about the different training programs, watched the happenings in the advanced simulation rooms, visited the National Medical Dispatch Center (NMDC), and worked shifts on the intensive care units. In addition, they visited the Ben Gurion University, participated in the academic collaboration between the different bodies and the promotion of working relations between MDA and the HAN University. MDA welcomes the visit and the opportunity to share working relations and create new friendships.



## Saying Thank You

At the end of last week, an evening of appreciation was held for the MDA volunteers in the Lachish region - more than 200 volunteers and employees from the Sderot and Ashkelon stations gathered for an evening of events organized by a friend of MDA from the United States, Mr. Steven Meisel. This evening was held in recognition of the stations adjacent to the Gaza strip that have experienced hundreds of fires and rocket attacks in recent months. At the MDA station in Kiryat Gat, Mr. Aviram Dahari, Mayor of Kiryat Gat, congratulated the employees and volunteers of the station and called on the public to donate blood and donated himself. At the Ashkelon station, The Mayor of Ashkelon, Mr. Tomer Glam, congratulated 101 new volunteers.



Photos: MDA Spokesmen

## In the Wake of the 225 Cases of Drowning at the Beaches and in Swimming Pools

A special training session and simulation of CPR was held at the "Sironit" beach in Netanya by MDA teams and volunteers. The many cases of drowning at the beaches and in the swimming pools in Israel in the past summer, encouraged the MDA teams to once again this year, for the seventh time, go out and carry out open training sessions on the beaches in order to give the public life saving knowledge which could be of help in cases of drowning which they may come across. The training session took place on the



"Sironit" beach in Netanya and drew a large crowd from amongst those bathing there.

A similar training session was also carried out by MDA teams last year in order to continue and raise the awareness of preserving human life on crowded beaches. The special training included a simulation of CPR on the beach, a simulation of saving a drowning person at sea, and a course to learn CPR for all those coming to the beach.

The demonstration and training took place in Hebrew and in French for the benefit of the many tourists from France who are filling the beaches at this period of time. The lifeguards on the beach also took part in the demonstration, in cooperation with the Netanya municipality.

Photos: Ilan Azaria MDA Spokesmen

## I am Proud of my Achievement and My Jewish Identity - Hanna from MDA Overseas Volunteers Program's Story



I became addicted to the rush that came with the alert of a new call, the wailing of the siren and the weaving through traffic to reach our destination in world-record response time. Preparing and checking the equipment became second nature to me. I experienced a newfound excitement every time I placed the stethoscope in my ears and wrapped the blood pressure cuff around the patient's arm. I never gotten any life-threatening calls or births but I did have many occasions where I could practice my blood pressure and pulse taking skills and that in itself was plenty enough for me. Most of our calls were elderly people with fever, stomach pains and twisted ankles - which to most medics seems mundane but was incredibly thrilling for me each time. I never thought that at age 17 I would be taking vital signs in the back of an ambulance and actually know what I was doing. This experience not only taught me helpful, lifesaving skills but it taught me self-trust and teamwork. My favorite part of my shifts was meeting the driver and the other volunteers and exchanging life stories in my broken Hebrew, which was getting better and better each day! I made so many new friends along the way; other overseas volunteers from around the world, young Israeli volunteers and experienced medics who dedicated their careers and lives to MDA's worthy cause.

I am so grateful for this experience and to have represented Hong Kong in this year's July course. I am proud of my achievement, my Jewish identity and my new friendships. Only in a country as unique as Israel could I have taken on such a special endeavor at a young age. I am counting the days until I participate in the Advanced Course.