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R E P O R T

about the cooperation with SOS Attitude

Rotaract Club Tuzla was contacted on Tuesday, 20.05.2014., about a team from French NGO SOS Attitude on their way to BiH and they have asked for help with local contacts, local knowledge, etc.

SOS Attitude specializes in providing shelter in crisis situations like natural catastrophes or conflicts. The tents are the top standard of Red Cross, dimensions 16m², with protection from rain, wind, sun, sand, mosquitoes and good ventilation. The first team came with 3 tents. The next day there should have been arriving 20 tents and 50 are expected on Monday. They are looking for people with real needs, families with homes destroyed or damaged so much that they do not provide quality shelter. Their goal is to prevent moving from where people were living by putting them up near their households so the families have somewhere to sleep while they are working on rebuilding or repairing the house. The tents can last 1 or 2 years, or even longer, depending on the conditions and treatment.

SOS Attitude is made mostly of Rotarians. The Board consists of Past District Governors and presidents/past presidents. The first team that came to our city was a team of humanitarians of SOS Attitude, but also past presidents and a president of the organisation.

Day 1

Wednesday afternoon Rotaract Club Tuzla has welcomed our contacts from France – SOS Attitude. After their arrival a meeting has been held with presidents of Rotary and Rotaract Clubs Tuzla and president elects of Rotary and Rotaract Clubs Tuzla. After a short introduction about the state in our city and country we have also exchanged information about our clubs, activities and projects and have made arrangements for tomorrow.

Day 2

Thursday the team (John, Francois, Jadranko, Davor) has visited Red Cross with members of Rotaract Club Tuzla for information about landslides and families who had houses destroyed. Then, we documented some of the landslides in Tuzla Canton, one of which was in a place called Badre, and then we left for Bijeljina where we visited the Centre for civil protection. In the Centre we weren't able to get too many informations because some of the areas were still flooded, but they had begun making a record of the damage. Together with friends from Rotary Club Bijeljina we had a meeting with mr. Perica Gligic from Red Cross, which ended to all of our pleasure.



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Day 3

Friday the team (John, Francois, Davor) has put up one tent near a landslide that destroyed 3 houses in a place called Paraći (<http://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/selo-paraci-u-kalesiji-vise-ne-postoji>), and two other tents were left there to be put up when they start building their houses. After a short while another team has arrived at Tuzla Canton Red Cross (Cyril, Serge), which we picked up and left 4 more tents at the same place.

The road then takes us to the customs office in Šićki Brod, where we had to stay longer than expected. Because of that we had to move the plans for the rest of our day for tomorrow. The trip to Janja and the assesment there to see what we could expect once the water withdraws from Brodac near Bijeljina and if we could leave some tents there.

Jadranko wasn't able to join the third day, but he was working from home together with our member Lejla on identifying landslides and damaged houses we were looking for so we could help the families.

Day 4

Saturday we divided into two teams (Cyril, Serge, Jadranko and John, Francois, Davor). One team was operating in Tuzla Canton and the other went again to Bijeljina to Centre for civil protection where we were told that the water from Janja withdrew and that they knew that there were at least five destroyed houses. We have visited seven families, made assesments and with the local team who provided support we have put up one tent and delivered 3 more. The local support team has accepted the obligation to help the families with putting up the tents. The fifth tent we had has been left with the local support team to identify the family that needs it and give it to them.

In Tuzla Canton the team has visited Sapna, Požarnica and some other places. One tent was put up and two were left to the families in Skenderuša, Sapna. Food and water was distributed in Janjići, Požarnica.

The second team had to leave earlier because of the long trip. The first team came back to Tuzla Canton Red Cross where we exchanged impressions, Red Cross has been brought up to speed about the action which was done and we have come to an agreement about further action. We have held a meeting between SOS Attitude (John Diksa, Francois Bieber) and Rotaract Club Tuzla (Davor Pavlić, Jadranko Stojić). Later, Red Cross also joined the meeting (Tanja Bijedić). SOS Attitude has also expressed a wish for Rotaract Club Tuzla to be a part of the project and to be a cosignatory to the memorandum of understanding between SOS Attitude and Red Cross. First team is traveling back.

Davor Pavlić
president for the rotarian 2013/2014