

## **WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY**

**14 June**

**“One drop of humanity. Donate blood. Save lives.”**

Every year on June 14, the world comes together to mark World Blood Donor Day, a global tribute to the millions of voluntary donors whose generosity saves countless human lives every day.

This year’s campaign, “One drop of humanity. Donate blood. Save lives.”, places humanity at the heart of every blood donation. It reminds us that each donation is more than a medical act: it is a powerful expression of solidarity, compassion, and collective responsibility. Inspired by the idea that all humanity can be reflected in a single drop, the campaign highlights how every donor helps create a lifeline that connects and protects us all.

Blood donation is essential for healthcare systems worldwide, supporting patients during emergencies, childbirth, surgeries, cancer treatment, and lifelong care for many serious conditions.

According to the World Health Organization, the objectives of this year’s campaign are:

- ensuring sustainable growth of regular, voluntary, and unpaid blood donation worldwide;
- raising awareness of the life-saving impact of blood and plasma donation;
- highlighting the vital contribution of blood donors and promoting the values of solidarity and humanity; and
- encouraging governments and partners to strengthen and invest in national blood donation programs in order to achieve universal access to safe blood transfusions.

Together, we can help ensure safe blood is available to everyone, everywhere, whenever it is needed most.

Blood donation has a strong social significance and represents an activity of public interest in the Republic of Macedonia. Without sufficient quantities of blood and blood products, it is not possible to provide modern and quality healthcare.

In the Republic of Macedonia, blood donation is voluntary and is carried out through blood donation drives organized by the Red Cross of the Republic of Macedonia, with the support of expert teams from the Institute of Transfusion Medicine – Skopje.

The national program supports blood donation and includes measures and activities for organizing and implementing donation campaigns. The Ministry of Health determines the country’s needs for blood units, blood products, and reserves, in cooperation with the Institute of Transfusion Medicine, and oversees the implementation of the program while ensuring quality standards.

A blood donor can be any person between 18 and 65 years of age, weighing at least 50 kilograms, and in generally good health. Blood donation is voluntary and unpaid.

Blood donation also has health benefits for donors themselves. Regular blood donation may improve overall health and reduce the risk of certain diseases.

Every person has a specific blood group, regardless of gender. It is determined by a pair of genes, one inherited from each parent. Each blood group is identified by a specific set of molecules (called antigens) found on the surface of red blood cells.

Type O blood, known as the “universal donor,” is among the most valuable in the world because it can be transfused to almost any blood group (except in cases involving rare antigens outside the main groups).

During the period January 19–25 2026, the Red Cross of North Macedonia is organizing blood donation drives in several cities: Bitola, Ohrid, Gostivar, Skopje, Probishtip, Radovish, and Krushevo.

On February 17 2026, a blood donation drive was held at the Institute of Public Health – Skopje, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of North Macedonia and a team from the Institute of Transfusion Medicine – Skopje. The aim was to help patients in need of blood and to encourage solidarity and unity.

Employees from both institutions (the Ministry of Health and the Institute of Public Health – Skopje) voluntarily participated in the campaign, contributing to saving human lives, stating that “One good deed can change someone’s world.”

With this symbolic yet extremely important act, humanity and readiness to support the healthcare system and all those in need were once again confirmed.

Let us be part of the change that brings hope, states the announcement on the Facebook page of the Institute.

Human blood knows no national, religious, ethnic, gender, or other divisions among donors of this “precious fluid.” That is why we should join this year’s World Health Organization campaign, “One drop of humanity. Donate blood. Save lives.” and, with our drop of humanity, give someone a new chance at life.

The Institute of Public Health appeals to all citizens: “Do not wait to be called—be humane and aware of the importance of the blood you donate.”