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Cecilia Goin/ICRC



Other PRP activities conducted in Gaza:

Post surgical physiotherapy project - together with the Ministry of Health and the Physical Rehabilitation Unit (PRU), the ICRC is establishing in-patient physiotherapy departments aimed at reducing the risk of disability following surgery and during patient hospitalization. The project is currently being implemented in Shifa, Nasser and the European hospitals in Gaza.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Artificial Limbs & Polio Center

Prosthetic & Orthotic Service

Artificial Limbs & Polio Center
 El-Wehda St.
 Gaza
 Tel: 08 282 1105
 Fax: 08 2867962
 E-mail: alpc.alpc@hotmail.com

ICRC Gaza Sub-Delegation
 Al-Rimal-Jalaa St. 62/500
 Gaza
 Tel: 08 282 26 44/5
 Fax: 08 282 88 84
 E-mail: gaz_gaza@icrc.org
 Website: www.icrc.org
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2011.0015/002.1000



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The Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre (ALPC) was established in 1974 and until 1980 it consisted of a small unit within the Ahli Arab hospital. In September 1985, the center moved into its current location.

Founded by the Benevolent Society for the Gaza strip, the centre gained full recognition by the Municipality of Gaza in May 1999. It is the only center of its kind in Gaza that provides Prosthetic and Orthotic services to all.

The Artificial Limb and Polio Centre is both a non-governmental and non-profit organization. In 2010, the ALPC provided free services to over 2,800 people.

ICRC's support to the ALPC:

The Physical Rehabilitation Program (PRP) was initiated by ICRC in cooperation with the Municipality of Gaza in November 2007, with the objective of providing physically disabled persons in the Gaza Strip with quality Prostheses and Orthoses. In order to achieve this objective, the ICRC contributes with technical support:

- Donates all material and components needed to manufacture prostheses and orthoses in order to enable the centre to provide prosthetic and orthotic services.
- Ensures quality services by sponsoring the participation of 6 staff members in an 18 months internationally recognised Prosthetics and Orthotics diploma abroad (2009-2012).
- Implements a multi disciplinary team approach to patient care.
- Provides technical assistance and support through the full-time presence of an expert Prosthetic & Orthotic clinician and a physiotherapist.
- Provides managerial support to the centre i.e obtaining official recognition of the P&O discipline within Gaza in order to ensure long-term sustainability

ICRC's infrastructure support:

- Extension of the centre (1450 m²), the installation of an elevator, the donation a 110 kva generator increasing the centre's capacity and capability.
- Rehabilitation of the road and pavements in front of the centre including the construction of a new ramp for wheelchair users to allow for safer access.

Prosthetic/Orthotic Rehabilitation and the Multi Disciplinary Team:

The ICRC and ALPC are working with a multidisciplinary team approach to patient care whereby an orthopedic surgeon, a qualified Prosthetist/Orthotist and a physiotherapist assess patients and are able to provide high quality rehabilitation service. Now, amputees receive specific rehabilitation to train and re-educate them the way they walk.