



Red Cross Society of DPRK

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ICRC ACTIVITIES IN THE DPRK

Since 2012, the ICRC has been supporting 3 provincial hospitals in the DPRK – Hamhung, Pyongsong and Sariwon. The support included on-site training and rehabilitation programs, as well as the provision of materials and medical supplies.

Apart from the in-house training, the ICRC directly supported 50 orthopedic surgical operations during 2012. It has steadily introduced knowledge of surgical procedures, sterilization methods, operating theatre techniques, intra-operative patient care and infection control processes.

The ICRC has also delivered medical equipment, drugs, medication and other medical supplies, and put in place medical logistic processes and storage facilities. It has also conducted training on the distribution and usage of medical stocks.

In addition, the ICRC has organized weekly training seminars on orthopedic-related topics for hospital and medical university staff.

The ICRC team has made substantial progress in introducing physiotherapy as a treatment concept. Due to the development of greater trust and confidence with the health authorities, ICRC physiotherapist gained greater access to patients and started to work in medical physiotherapy departments and hospital wards.

Simultaneously, the rehabilitation elements of the program continued in all three regional hospitals. Despite constraints and concerns about quality, works related to general water supply (pumping stations, reservoir and main lines) as well



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as roofing and ventilation in the Operation Theatres (OT) have continued.

Since 2005, The ICRC has been supporting a physical rehabilitation center in Rakrang, providing services to an increasing number of people.

With support from the ICRC and the DPRK Red Cross, physically disabled people have been able to receive appropriate treatment at the Rakrang Physical Rehabilitation Centre (PRC). To improve the quality of accommodation and treatment, the ICRC has assisted Rakrang PRC in building an additional building and in renovating its roof. The ICRC has also organized regular training sessions, improved the setup of the physiotherapy department, built an external wheelchair/gait training path and improved the Center's organization by working jointly with the center's management. The ICRC has also worked on the improvement of a multi-disciplinary team approach in the centre.

In 2012, 530 beneficiaries (including 80 women and 26 children) received assistance. 286 new beneficiaries (including 38 women and 6 children) were fitted with prostheses, and 18 new patients (including 3 women and 8 children) were fitted with orthoses. During the same period, 523 prostheses (69 for women, 14 for children), 30 orthoses (including 4 for women and 18 for children), 453 crutches (pieces) and 31 wheelchairs have been delivered.

The ICRC strengthens dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the National Society of the Red Cross through meetings with senior officials.

The ICRC remains ready to assist in finding solutions to the plight of the separated Korean families and raises its concern with the authorities and respective National Societies whenever appropriate.

The ICRC also actively promotes greater knowledge and understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and humanitarian principles with the DPRK Red Cross.

**International Committee of the Red Cross
Diplomatic Compound Munhungdong Apart.**

1201 Taedonggang District
PO Box 40
PYONGYANG, DPR Korea
www.icrc.org
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