

Pan-Africa

Prosthetic Training Center & Regional Support

Implementing Partner: International Committee of the Red Cross Special Fund for the Disabled (ICRC/SFD)

Funding Period: September 2002 - September 2007

Amount: \$4,500,000

Purpose: Ensure the continuity of physical rehabilitation projects in war-affected countries and support similar programs in other African countries.

Accomplishments

- Provided equipment and orthopedic components to thirty projects in sixteen countries: Cameroon; Ethiopia; Guinea Bissau; Kenya; Madagascar; Mali; Malawi; Mauritania; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Nigeria; Tanzania; Togo; Zambia; Zimbabwe.
- Provided professional technical assistance to twenty projects in fifteen countries to implement practical training on specific cases with selected patients, control the state of the equipment, and assist workshop managers in selecting candidate prosthetists for further training in Addis Ababa.
- Organized eleven, one-month training courses for sixty prosthetists and orthotists. ICRC also provided training seminars in Nairobi, Morocco, and Mali for an additional fifty-three workers.
- Facilitated the production and the fitting of patients with more than 3,000 prostheses and 4,500 orthoses.

Two major obstacles to providing prosthetic and orthotic services to persons with disabilities in developing countries is the inadequacy of sustainable services and the limited number of people with the technical skills to provide the disabled with the quality prosthetic and orthotic devices they need over the course of a lifetime. Another major obstacle is the affordability of materials needed to make and fit prostheses/orthoses.

To overcome these obstacles, USAID's War Victims Fund and ICRC/SFD are working together to train local professionals and establish workshops and clinics where such professionals can obtain and offer needed devices at realistic prices. ICRC has developed an efficient method of producing low-cost, consistently high-quality modular polypropylene prostheses in a centralized production facility. In addition to supplying centers with equipment and orthopedic components to manufacture prostheses, USAID and ICRC/SFD have enhanced training opportunities in the Pan-African region. Expatriate prosthetists based in Addis Ababa provide their expertise to the supported centers. Training courses have been organized in Addis Ababa for prosthetists and

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orthotists, and the program sponsors technicians to receive training at the Tanzania Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists.