THE ICRC’S SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME

REMOVING STIGMA AND CHANGING LIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES
BACKGROUND

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Physical Rehabilitation Programme implements and supports a variety of initiatives aimed at helping people with physical disabilities to participate fully in society. Often this means removing physical barriers and changing attitudes so that people can realize and achieve their full potential in all aspects of society. For example, adaptive sport programmes build confidence, teamwork and leadership skills while creating greater community awareness and reducing long-held stigma. Increased access to education helps to level the playing field so that people with disabilities can pursue their personal and professional goals. Career development support and microeconomic initiatives create opportunities to earn sustainable incomes and attain financial independence – a goal that has all too often been out of reach for people with disabilities in places affected by armed conflict and other violence.

We carry out our societal integration initiatives in coordination with local partner organizations that can keep them running long-term. The ICRC aims to build the capacities of the partners, governments and societies we work with to address all aspects of social inclusion. The Physical Rehabilitation Programme has been promoting social inclusion for people with disabilities since 2017, starting with smaller, local initiatives as far back as 2011. In 2023, we supported programmes in nearly 30 countries worldwide.
Over 10,000 people with disabilities supported in 29 countries

Initiatives include adaptive sport, (self-)employment support, career development and access to education
We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.