

Thank you Mr. Co-chair for allowing me to say a few words.

My name is Theo Verhoeff and I coordinate the Physical Rehabilitation Programs of the International Committee of the Red Cross. This presentation deals with physical rehabilitation aspects only.

Generally, three types of assistance can be distinguished:

- Financial (e.g. investment costs; imported materials)
- Technical (e.g. introduction of a low cost technology; establishment of treatment guidelines together with the partner)
- Educational (e.g. formal training courses and sponsorships in prosthetics/orthotics)

The assistance to the patient usually includes the following activities:

- the identification and listing of patients
- their transport
- their accommodation and food during the rehabilitation period

- the provision of physiotherapy
- the fitting of prostheses and/or orthoses
- the provision of crutches, wheelchairs
- the follow-up.

Now, what has been done for the mine-affected persons in the ICRC-assisted projects?

During 2002, close to 40'000 individuals received physical rehabilitation in 53 assisted physical rehabilitation projects located in 21 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Amputees alone were fitted with 17'000 prostheses and 60% of these amputees were amputated because of a mine injury. (2002: 10'029 amputees). This figure of 60% mine-affected amputees among the total assisted amputees has remained stable during the last 5 years.

I will close with repeating a few important points, most of which have also been mentioned by some previous speakers. It remains important to underline the need in projects for:

- long term commitments of donors, of assistance organizations and of local authorities for long term capacity building. Sustainable physical rehabilitation services are required because a disabled needs access to functioning physical rehabilitation service for the rest of his/her life for repairs and replacements of appliances.
- local partnerships. Intersectional collaboration of all actors is needed, esp. at country level, to use the available resources optimally and to contribute to a national health- and development policy.
- non-discrimination of victims, also according to the cause of their disability. It is important that physical rehabilitation centres are able to address the needs of all physically disabled..
- avoiding duplication of efforts by making optimal use of already existing professional guidelines and professional fora.

For more details, the ICRC will produce its annual special report on mine action during the coming months and in a few weeks time the Physical Rehabilitation Programs Annual Report 2002 will be available at the web (www:/icrc.org).

Thank you.