

Special Fund for the disabled

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*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies*

The ICRC is pleased to inform the National Societies that it has established a special fund for the benefit of the disabled as a result of armed conflicts.

The fund is intended to finance long-term projects for persons disabled as a result of armed conflicts. The fund will first give help to war amputees and paraplegics. It will endeavour to help invalids in a manner proportionate to their suffering, with priority for distress most urgently demanding relief.

The fund will finance in particular the creation by the ICRC itself of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances and for rehabilitation and occupational retraining. Projects by National Societies and other humanitarian bodies will also be able to benefit from this fund.

Projects should be suited to conditions in the country where they are undertaken. They should allow for participation by patients and should become independent of the fund in not more than three years.

A committee will examine projects submitted to it. It will see in particular that those of which it approves will be undertaken in co-operation with the authorities and National Societies of the countries for which the projects are intended.

The constitution of a fund for the benefit of the disabled was recommended by Resolution XXVII of the Twenty-fourth International Red Cross Conference which asked that the fund be administered jointly by the ICRC and the League. After an exchange of views between the institutions on the categories of disabled persons whom the fund should benefit, the League Secretariat judged it preferable not to join in the venture. It took the view that the fund should benefit a wider category of disabled than the war-disabled for whom the fund instituted by the ICRC was intended and that it should promote direct action on concrete projects between "participating" and "operating" Societies. Consequently, the ICRC decided, in agreement with the League Secretariat, to set up the fund alone.