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KHR PRP ‘Soft opening’ – AV News package

# background & Directions for use

The text below is to accompany an AV package to be published in the ICRC AV Newsroom and shared with journalists directly via WhatsApp. Given current sensitivities, further sharing of the AV link on KYI social media platforms will be considered on an ad hoc basis, if appropriate at the time.

# text



***ICRC Audio-Visual Package***

September 2024

**Ukraine: Bolstering support for people with disability in Kharkiv**

Kyiv (ICRC) – The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has launched a partnership with Kharkiv University Clinic and Ukraine’s Ministry of Health to provide physical rehabilitation support for the growing number of people in need due to amputations and disability caused by the armed conflict.

“People who need prosthetic limbs living near the front-line need, want and can continue to be active members of society,” said Stefanie Gartlacher, head of the ICRC team in Kharkiv.

“This expanded program will help them do that”.

Patients and staff from the clinic as well as representatives from the ICRC and other local authorities attended the soft launch of the new program in mid-September. A new rehabilitation wing is being built at the Kharkiv University Clinic, including a prosthetic and orthotic laboratory, to provide comprehensive support for people living with disability.

The new wing will provide a permanent space for the service a mobile clinic run by the ICRC has been providing at the site since July. The clinic consists of four containers that can be transported by trucks, but which still provide a full range of physical rehabilitation services, from the creation of prosthetics to physiotherapy.

Once the new wing at Kharkiv University Clinic is complete, the mobile clinic will move to another location in Ukraine to help patients there.

The partnership aims to improve overall health outcomes for patients requiring physical rehabilitation services, promoting social well-being, self-reliance and full participation in daily life.

It seeks to ensure patients will have access to mobility devices, temporary prosthetic and orthotic services combined with physical therapy and related rehabilitation treatment – including mental health support.

The program will start with a priority focus on people who have had lower limb amputations and is open to anyone directly or indirectly affected by the armed conflict.

“We want to acknowledge the physical, mental and social cost of armed conflict on every patient,” said Oscar Bermudez, the ICRC physical rehabilitation team leader in Kharkiv.

“We do this work because physical rehabilitation can be the key towards patients regaining the capacity to participate fully in society,” he said.

**For further information or interview requests, please contact:**

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* **Available for interview: Oscar Bermudez, ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Program Team Leader in Kharkiv**

**Multimedia Audiovisual Content available** [**here**](https://icrcnewsroom.org/preview/en/2091/ukraine-bolstering-support-for-people-with-disability-in-kharkiv)**: B-roll & interviews**

*The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a neutral, impartial and independent organization with an exclusively humanitarian mandate that stems from the Geneva Conventions of 1949. It helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often alongside its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners.*