



# MISSION REPORT

## Mozambique Maputo mission

### 10-14 April 2023

*Advanced training mission  
for 12 physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians.  
Assisted 40 children with severe disabilities,  
of which 26 in need of a new postural seat.*



**Swiss  
Limbs**  
Mobility now.

# The Mission

*From April 10-14, 2023, SwissLimbs organized a specific training mission in advanced rehabilitation techniques with focus to patients with neurological impairments at Pequena Obra de Dom Orione in Maputo, Mozambique. The objective of this project is to support the supply of adapted postural rehabilitation devices and assistance to all the 40 children and teenagers with severe disabilities of which 26 in need of customized postural seats. The children of the centre are mostly suffering from spasticity, motulesi and severe motor and cerebral difficulties.*

These children have been either abandoned due to the stigma linked to their disability or they come from poor families that cannot afford adequate rehabilitative services. However, disabled children who manage to escape this fate do not have a much brighter future, as in most cases Mozambican children with disabilities are kept hidden at home by family members, mostly in very bad conditions.

Pequena Obra Dom Orione institute, is the only institute in Mozambique that offer a specialized support. The 40 disabled resident children have already found shelter and permanent care in this center, while hundreds of them are treated every year on an outpatient basis. Thanks to the personalized therapies offered, the institute has begun to receive patients who require daytime care, offering even a place to spend their days with dignity. Thanks to the work of the institute, family members of disabled children can then return to work and provide financially for the rest of the family.

Since 2019 SwissLimbs is cooperating with the institute Pequena Obra de Dom Orione and has inaugurated in 2021 a fully equipped and modern orthopaedic workshop inside this structure to serve in- and out- patients. This time a special team was set and composed by:

- the President Filippo Nishino,
- Technical Director Daniele Klay,
- Physiotherapist Francesca Cassano,
- Physiotherapist Evita Tenka,
- Physiotherapist Raffaella Martucci.

The team is highly specialized in treating similar cases at the specialized institute OTAF, based in Switzerland, providing extreme high-quality rehabilitation services to the disabled residents. Thanks to this huge experienced and skilled team, combined with a intense workshop this mission could be accomplished very successfully.

The first phase of this mission began in 2021, when during the inauguration of the orthopaedic workshop our technical director Daniele together with the P&O workshop manager (Henrique Matsinhe) and the physiotherapist manager (Edmilson Mazive) of the centre Dom Orione assessed the rehabilitation needs of all the resident patients. As a result the need were accounted into 24 ostural seats, one special monodrive wheelchair, one made-to-measure wheelchair seat and several orthopaedic adaptations.

SwissLimbs team trained 13 tehnicians of which 5 orthopedic technicians, 7 physiotherapists and one ergotherapist in advanced rehabilitation techniques with focus to patients with neurological impairment, restoring dignity, applying postural corrections and improving mobility to 26 disabled children.

# Training times



*Dom Orione, Maputo 10 - 14 April 2023*

The working program began with a theoretic part where the principles for a correct positioning of the seated patient were explained from a technical-orthopaedic point of view. After, indications were provided to customize a session according to the needs of each patient, passing through an in-depth assessment from a physiotherapeutic point of view and an analysis of posture.

Summaries and evaluation forms were given to participants, that they could use in daily practice. We also tried to underline the importance of interdisciplinary work for the achievement of a quality result.

The practical work was in fact organized in groups composed by physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians in order to activate the necessary synergies.

The physiotherapists and orthopedic technicians of the Pequena Obra de Dom Orione will have to prepare some adjustments and finishing touches on the new seated positioning with the possibility of comparison on an IT platform with the SwissLimbs team.

Here are some pictures that best represent the five days of intensive mission for the technicians at the Dom Orione Rehabilitation Center, both in training sessions and during the manufacturing of the postural seats.





## Children before and after, and some training moments...



# Presentation of certificates

At the end of the training week in Mozambique, the SwissLimbs team, together with the Director and the clinical supervisor of Pequena Obra de Dom Orione, Father Somketta Zoungrana and Dr. Teresa Tiago handed the certificates to the 12 participants. Our wise colleagues addressed encouraging words to the trained technicians, urging them to do improve and to pursue perfection in the delivery of the service to patients. As always at the end of each SwissLimbs mission, the delivery of the certificates has turned into a joyful and festive moment.

*Congratulations to everyone!*



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Atália Ana Daniel RITSUR  
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Felna De Lurdes Horácio MACHEQUE  
(Dom Orione)

## The SwissLimbs technical trainers



**Daniele Kläy** is a highly experienced Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. He works for Hepius Group at Ortotecnica, orthopedic workshop based in Lugano, Switzerland, and has over 20 years of experience in the profession. He is SwissLimbs technical director and responsible for the supervision and implementation of training modules to CPOs.

**Francesca Cassano** is a highly experienced physiotherapist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. She works as physiotherapy director for OTAF foundation, for more than a century it has been operating in Ticino to support people with disabilities, offering them health and social services. She has over 20 years of experience in the profession.

**Evita Tenka** is a highly experienced physiotherapist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. She works as rehabilitation specialist for OTAF foundation, for more than a century it has been operating in Ticino to support people with disabilities, offering them health and social services. She has over 20 years of experience in the profession.

**Raffaella Martucci** is a highly experienced physiotherapist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. She works as rehabilitation specialist for OTAF foundation, for more than a century it has been operating in Ticino to support people with disabilities, offering them health and social services. She has over 20 years of experience in the profession.

# The beneficiaries

Focus of the patients who benefited of 26 new devices.



## Abilio Mariana 10 Years



Abilio suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and delayed psychomotor development due to prenatal asphyxia. He needs a seat with a lower depth with a different headrest and legrest.

## Aldo Lopez 20 Years



Aldo suffers from autism, infantile cerebral palsy and dystonic spastic tetraparesis caused by prenatal asphyxia (due to choking with the umbilical cord). He needs a new seat, a medium butterfly harness and a walker.

## Agostino Manuel 17 Years



Agostinho suffers from encephalopathy and paraparesis: his mother was ill with HIV untreated when she was pregnant. He needs a deeper chair with the possibility of possibly lock arms and a trunk fixation belt.

## Alista Jamaio 21 Years



Alista suffers from infantile cerebral palsy, developmental delay, psychomotor developmental delay and spastic tetraparesis due to prenatal encephalopathy. She needs a new pivoting wheelchair and a complete postural system.

## Argentina Armando 20 Years



Argentina suffers from encephalopathy and spastic paraparesis. The causes of her infirmity are unknown. She needs a new wheelchair with footrests, a seat lift, two femoral belts and a butterfly harness.

## Chausio Nelson 14 Years



Chausio suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and spastic tetraparesis due to prenatal encephalopathy. He needs a specially designed seat with a tilting frame with support under his knees when he is upright.



## Carlos Antonio 17 Years



Carlos suffers from infantile cerebral palsy, developmental delay, psychomotor development and scoliosis. He contracted meningitis and tuberculosis at the age of one. He needs a two-femoral belt seat, a right pelvis hold and a left hemi-bacin hold.

## Clemencia José 17 Years



Clemencia suffers from microcephaly and spastic tetra paresis. The causes of her infirmity are unknown. She needs a customised seat.



## Celeste Cavel 19 Years



Celeste suffers from infantile cerebral palsy, delayed psychomotor development, spastic tetraparesis and scoliosis. Her infirmity is due to prenatal asphyxia. She needs a leg-rest seat, a left hemi-bacin and right hemi-bacin and thorax hold, and a butterfly trunk fixation belt.

## Clercio Mutambe 15 Years



Clercio suffers from microcephaly and spastic tetraparesis due to prenatal asphyxia. He needs a deeper seat, left hemi-thorax support, right hemi-bacin support and good pelvic fixation.



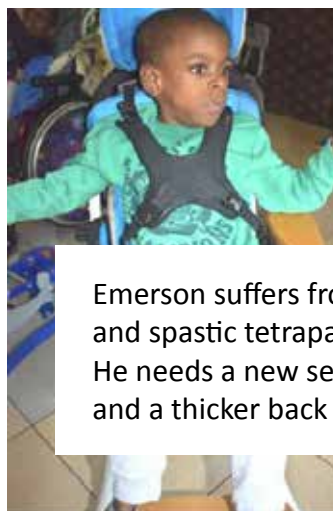


## Daniel Ferreira 20 Years



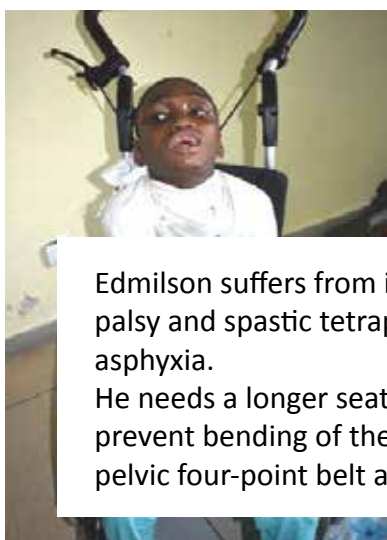
Daniel suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and spastic tetra paresis due to the onset of epilepsy and convulsion a few weeks after his birth. His wheelchair is already more or less suitable, he needs adaptations to accommodate the blowing of the seat and to fill the lumbar lordosis.

## Emerson Lucas 12 Years



Emerson suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and spastic tetraparesis due to premature birth. He needs a new seat with two femoral belts and a thicker back cushion.

## Edmilson Francisco 16 Years



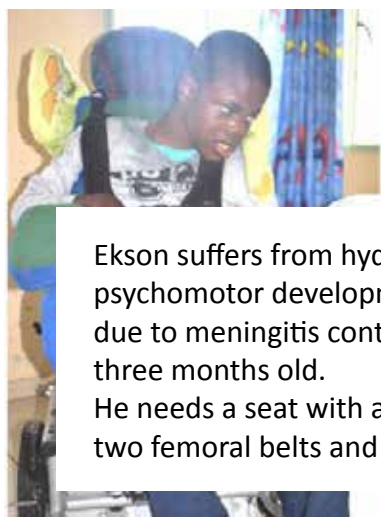
Edmilson suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and spastic tetraparesis due to prenatal asphyxia. He needs a longer seat, a calf strap to prevent bending of the knees, a padded pelvic four-point belt and a harness.

## Fleita Luis 13 Years



Fleita suffers from microcephaly, delayed psychomotor development and secondary autism due to prenatal asphyxia. She needs two AFO orthoses (ankle and foot) and a walker.

## Ekson Beto 18 Years



Ekson suffers from hydrocephaly, delayed psychomotor development and monoparesis due to meningitis contracted when he was three months old. He needs a seat with a wraparound headrest, two femoral belts and ankle straps.

## Francis Bene 10 Years



Francis suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and developmental delay psychomotor development due to premature birth. He needs a seat with two femoral belts and a reduction of the abduction wedge, which is currently too wide.

## Joaquim Pedro 23 Years



Joaquim suffers from spastic tetraparesis due to prenatal asphyxia. He needs a new wheelchair with single left-hand drive, a custom-made seat and backrest, a butterfly harness and two femoral belts.



## Maria de José 20 Years



Maria suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and spastic tetra paresis due to prenatal asphyxia. She needs a new wheelchair with tilting capability, trunk restraint on both sides, two femoral belts, a butterfly harness and a medium headrest.



## Julinho 22 Years



Julinho suffers from paraparesis, encephalopathy and epilepsy. The causes of his infirmities are unknown. He needs a new wheelchair with a butterfly harness, lateral trunk support on both sides and two femoral belts.



## Mario de Jesus 20 Years



Mario suffers from infantile cerebral palsy, delayed psychomotor development and abdominal distension due to prenatal encephalopathy. He needs a shorter seat, left hemi-bacin support, right lumbar and left thoracic passage, two femoral belts, a padded footplate and padded lateral foot supports.



## Kelven Recebeu 14 Years



Kelven suffers from microcephaly and spastic tetra paresis due to prenatal asphyxia. He needs a shorter seat, to close the seat angle, to integrate a headrest to the existing backrest, a left Haemi thoracic support, right Haemi thoracic support and a butterfly harness.



## Nicole Heleia 15 Years



Nicole suffers from microcephaly, spastic tetraparesis and epilepsy due to a prenatal encephalopathy. She needs a shallower seat, lower side supports and two femoral belts.



## Roda Matavel 20 Years



Roda suffers from infantile cerebral palsy, spastic tetra paresis and epilepsy due to convulsions a few weeks after birth. He needs a new seat, two femoral belts and a butterfly harness.

## Noemia Maria 15 Years



Noemia suffers from microcephaly and spastic tetra paresis due to prenatal asphyxia. She needs a custom-made seat, a pelvic belt and a butterfly harness.

## Sean Manjate 12 Years



Sean suffers from infantile cerebral palsy and developmental delay psychomotor development due to prenatal encephalopathy. He needs a longer seat and two femoral belts.

## Usselia Canda 16 Years



Usselia suffers from microcephaly and spastic tetra paresis. The causes of his infirmity are unknown.

She needs an ad hoc seat with a tilting frame with support under her knees when she is upright.







