



MISSION REPORT - Rwanda 28 August - 01 September 2023

*Training mission in the innovative 3D CAD/CAM technology
and lower limb prosthetics at the HVP Gatagara Orthopedics &
Rehabilitation Hospital in Gikondo*



The Mission

From August 28 to 1st September, 2023, SwissLimbs organized a training mission in lower limbs and the innovative 3D cad/cam technology at HVP Gatagara Gikondo Centre in Kigali, Rwanda.

From August 28th to September 2nd 2023, the SwissLimbs team (comprising President Filippo Nishino, Head Trainer and Ambassador for Africa Emmanuel Kalanzi, 3D CAD/CAM Senior Trainer Hervè Schmidt, and Trainer Samuel Taremwa) conducted their 48th training mission in Rwanda! The mission took place at HVP Gatagara Hospital, located within the Gikondo subsidiary in Kigali. During this mission, the SwissLimbs team provided training to 15 orthopedic technicians in 3D CAD/CAM technology and low-cost, high-performance monolimb technology. They also restored mobility to 15 patients and inaugurated the refurbishment and full equipping of the HVP Gatagara Gikondo Orthopedic workshop. This included the addition of a mobile clinic, new machinery, tools, and a substantial inventory of raw materials and components.

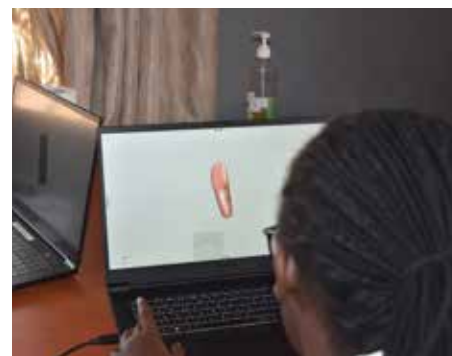
Not just training, as the mission allowed Filippo Nishino to visit during the 31st August 2023 the Office of Rwandan Biomedical Committee to share and discuss opinions about “3D cad/cam, monolimb and other innovative technologies as solutions that SwissLimbs designs to allow a better service to patients, to increase jobs in the country and increase performance of the orthopaedic workshops and to reduce the costs to the health system as a whole. Later on, the 2nd September he visited as well the orthopaedic workshop in Ikurunziza.



Training times

Kigali 28th - 1st September 2023

Here are some pictures that best represent the four days of mission for the orthopedic technicians at the HVP Gatagara - Gikondo orthopaedic center, both in training sessions and during the manufacturing of orthopaedic insoles and prostheses.



Presentation of certificates

At the end of the training week, the orthopedic technician, ambassador and head trainer of SwissLimbs Emmanuel Kalanzi, together with the President of SwissLimbs Filippo Nishino, the Senior 3d cad/cam trainer Hervè Schmidt and the trainer Samuel Taremwa handed the certificates to the 15 orthopedic technicians and to the maintenance and store officer in training. Our wise ambassador addressed encouraging words to the trained technicians, urging them to do better and better and to pursue perfection in the manufacture of prostheses and orthoses. As always at the end of each SwissLimbs mission, the delivery of the certificates has turned into a joyful and moment and we ended up visiting the genocide memorial at Kigali.

Congratulations to everyone!

The 16 participants



BUCYIBARUTA Fulgence, CPO



HITIMANA Desire, CPO



GATSINZI Ruth Ishimwe, CPO



IYAMUREMYE Heritier Gasore, CPO



HAKIZIMANA Jean Pierre, CPO



IRADUKUNDA Dharria, CPO



HABYARAMUNGU Eric, CPO



KINARO Evans Arumba, CPO



MURWANASHYAKA Papias, CPO



NIYIBIZI MURORUNKWERE Judith, CPO



MBAMUMANA Ange Brave, CPO



UWAMA HORO Angelique, CPO



NIYONKURU Aline, CPO



SEMUDENGE Théophile Bahati, CPO



NIYODUSENGA Josephine, CPO



KARAMA Sebastien,
maintenance and store officer



The SwissLimbs technical trainers



Emmanuel is a highly experienced Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. He works for AVSI Foundation Uganda at Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop "GROW", and has over 40 years of experience in the profession. He is SwissLimbs representative in Africa and responsible for the implementation of training modules to CPOs on the field.



Hervé has been working in the orthopedic field since 1996 and is currently employed as an orthopedic technician at Ortotecnica SA in Lugano. He graduated in 2001 by attending courses at the Ecole Professionnelle EPSIC in Lausanne and has a particular passion for information technology applied to the orthopedic field. Hervé is a volunteer for SwissLimbs, and the mission to Rwanda is his third mission to Africa..



Samuel is an experienced Certified Prosthetist and Orthotist, committed and passionate to humanitarian causes and projects. He works for AVSI Foundation Uganda at Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop "GROW", and has several years of experience in the profession. He is SwissLimbs Trainer in Africa and responsible for the implementation of training modules to CPOs on the field.



The beneficiaries

15 Patients and 15 devices



Kayitesi Porsifique, 23 years old, Rwandan female from Remera region, right transtibial (monolimb), amputee since 2009 due to land mine accident.



Uwayezu Vedaste, 37 years old, Rwandan male from Bugesera region, left transtibial (monolimb) amputee, since 2018 due to car accident.



Kali Wabo Rutampuga, 65 years old from Musanze region, Rwandan male, right transfemoral amputee, since 2019 due to gangrene. The prosthesis received on this mission is his first prosthesis.



Musabende Eularie, 65 years old, Rwandan female from Nyarugunga, left transfemoral amputee, since 1994 due to gunshot.



Rukundo David, 30 years old, Rwandan male from Gasabo, right transtibial amputee, since 2016 due to road traffic accident.

In addition, during our training workshop, 10 of our CPO trainees received orthopaedic insoles beneficial for their posture, gait and mobility.

Equipping and refurbishment of HVP Gatagara orthopaedic workshop & complete mobile clinic for outreach missions

As part of this project SwissLimbs has provided a complete set of new machines, tools and stock, in short:

- a complete 3d cad/cam system for high performing and efficient production of orthopaedic insoles with the potential to create new jobs and to cover the production need of a significant share of Kigali city's need and even surrounding provinces.
- a mobile clinic, fully equipped
- 2 routers
- 2 orthopaedic ovens
- 1 portable router
- 1 portable Vacuum machine
- Portable tools
- Significant stock of Prosthetic Components, Orthopaedic components and materials such as polipropilene, EVA sheets, blocks for orthopaedic insoles etc.





Visit to other projects

During the mission, the president of SwissLimbs had also the opportunity to visit the Rwandan Biomedical Committee, in order to lobby the authority for the adoption of the innovative and low cost technologies (3D cad/cam and Monolimb prosthetics) introduced by SwissLimbs in Rwanda, and to share potential future projects. The benefits are not only in terms of the performance of the devices for patients (weight is 40% lighter for trans tibial prosthetics) but also due to the significant savings to the benefit of the Rwandan health system.

SwissLimbs and HVP delegates were welcomed and had a fruitful discussion with the RBC officer in charge for non-communicable diseases. The parties agreed to share the process for the formal adoption and recognition of these technologies into the Rwandan health system.

