

TANZANIA MISSION REPORT Ikonda Hospital, 7-21 November 2016

IMPLEMENTOR: SwissLeg and Swisslimbs, Lugano, Switzerland

DONOR: Associazione Kammea, Riva San Vitale, Switzerland

PARTNER: Amici di Ikonda Hospital Tanzania, c/o Miss. della Consolata, Cernusco Lombardone, Italy

LOCATION: Consolata Hospital, Njombe, Tanzania

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS:

BUILT complete Orthopedic wing at the local main hospital

TRAINED 2 Full-Time Orthopaedic Technicians

RESTORED mobility to 10 satisfied patients

LAUNCHED SwissLeg Innovative Technology in Tanzania

The Consolata Hospital in Ikonda, Tanzania started in 1961 as a simple health post. In 55 years, it evolved into a fully functional high standard 400-bed hospital and treats 400 patients daily. It has become a reference for high standard healthcare for the whole country.



The Consolata Ikonda Hospital in Tanzania



Patients waiting and local medical personnel at the Ikonda Hospital in Tanzania

We were commissioned to provide the hospital with a new orthopedic wing, equipped with machines and materials. The task to bring machinery and sufficient supplies to manufacture at least 250 Below Knee prostheses was not small, considering the transportation and importation challenges into Africa. Shipments were done in August, and the workshop was ready to function in October 2016. All was ready for the training sessions planned for November with SwissLimbs, to bring the know-how and train 2 full-time technicians who will be responsible for the daily management and to run the workshop.

In the first 2 weeks of training, the success was already evidenced by the number of satisfied patients. SwissLimbs' technicians immediately saw that the needs of the patients went beyond the Below Knee Prosthetics and were able to bring the wider range of O&P services to the workshop.

Ikonda hospital was proud of their newly added Orthopedic workshop which they were able to show to the Italian Ambassador to Tanzania on the occasion of his special visit in the region. Ambassador Mengoni was impressed to see the technological innovation of SwissLeg Monolimb that can be manufactured in 4 hours and costs 1/3 of the alternatives in Tanzania.

The second phase of the project (spring 2017) will focus on Above Knee Prosthetics and the supply of knee joints for an entire year. AK prostheses make up for 40% all amputees in this region of Tanzania.



The new Orthopedic Workshop – a “turn-key” project of SwissLeg and SwissLimbs at the Ikonda Hospital. With the 2 new Tanzanian CPO’s (Certified Ortho-Prosthetist) Tumaini Matandala and Stanslaus Francis



Roberto Agosta explains the SwissLeg Technology to the Italian Ambassador during his visit to Ikonda.



Manufacturing and Training: Trained by SwissLimbs' Emmanuel Kalanzi are the new managers and CPO's of the Ikonda O&P department.



Results in various Ortho-Prosthetic services including: Below Knee, with cosmetic finishing and design, Bilateral BK, Thomas Splint, custom fabricated GRAFO's fitted, Ortho-prostheses fitted to child, braces and arch supports.

The Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT) in Moshi, is now partnering with SwissLimbs for an official new training module to be introduced into their curriculum. They wish to have the SwissLeg Monolimb technology taught to the trainers and so be introduced to the students. The Tanzanian market desperately needs cheaper, and most importantly, efficient prostheses to be offered to the amputees who still lack alternatives between the very expensive technologies and the cheap but low-quality devices.

TATCOT, endorsed by the ISPO (International Society of Prosthetists and Orthotists) is the most important training O&P institution in Africa. It is a reference not only to East Africa but also for all the Sub-Saharan region and the Gulf Countries; students come to be trained in the O&P profession and to receive the prestigious certification from the ISPO.



TATCOT
Tanzania Training Centre
For Orthopedic Technologists
Moshi – Tanzania



Testimonial

Abraham Josi Sanga – Tanzania



Abraham is a 51-year-old farmer from a little village called Ihela in the Eastern Highlands of Tanzania. He is married with 2 grown up children and a grandchild. In his spare time, he teaches Catechism in his local parish.

This is his story:

“One night in 2002 I was awakened with an overwhelming pain in my left leg. It was swollen and felt like it was going to explode. Someone rushed me to Ikonda Hospital by bicycle, but by the time I arrived there I had lost all feeling in my leg. The diagnose was bone cancer, and it had to be amputated immediately.

I was sent home to heal after the amputation. For a year I felt hopeless about my lack of mobility but then I was told that Bulongwa hospital had a prosthetic center, and so I went and was fitted with a prosthetic leg there. Although I was happy to be able to walk again, the leg was very heavy and caused me some pain, but over time I became accustomed to it.

That prosthesis broke apart after 11 years of constant use. For the past 2 years, I have been without a prosthesis and used crutches to get around. I am thankful to have been fitted with a new one today.

The leg I received at Ikonda hospital is strong, light and unlike the other one, I can wash and go to the field even in the rain because it can do not get damaged by water. This is a big help for me and very encouraging.

Abraham received a leg at the newly constructed orthopedic center at Ikonda Hospital in Tanzania, sponsored by the Association Kammea of Switzerland.