



MISSION REPORT – MOZAMBIQUE

September 2018

- ✓ TRAINED 31 Orthopedic Technicians
- ✓ from all 11 Provinces of Mozambique
- ✓ RESTORED mobility to 10 patients (8 legs, 2 hands)

SwissLimbs partnered with the **Mozambican Ministry of Health** in a training mission for the department of Rehabilitative Medicine in the Maputo hospital. This project offered prosthetic legs and hands to amputees while it trained technicians from all over the country in SwissLimbs' innovative technologies.



The **Maputo Central Hospital** is the largest hospital in the country and a reference point for training in all medical disciplines. Months of preparation with the MoH resulted a week-long training in SwissLimbs technologies to **31 technicians** from all **11 Provinces** in the nation. This was our largest and most intense training workshop to date. Most of the technicians knew only one outdated type of technology and had much to learn in 5 short days: the Below Knee "Monolimb", the Modular, the Above Knee and a first for all, the myoelectric hand.

Lessons and presentations began in the classroom as the team explained some theory then moved to the workshop for some hands-on training. The size of the group and the amount of learning to be done presented quite a challenge. Early in the process the large group was split into teams, each having their own project to work on, assisted by our SwissLimbs trainers Emmanuel Kalanzi and Bernardo Gomes.



The **SwissLimbs** Team



Coming together from across the world to make an excellent team, was Roberto Agosta, SwissLimb's Executive director from Switzerland, Bernardo Gomes from Portugal and Emmauel Kalanzi from Uganda. Mr. Kalanzi will turn 70 years old this Christmas and has 40 years' experience in the profession. He has traveled with us throughout Africa on all our training missions thus far, so earning the much-deserved title as "SwissLimbs Ambassador for Africa". He is rock solid and students flock to observe his wisdom, passion and dedication as he perseveres until the patient is perfectly satisfied with their fit. Complementing Mr. Kalanzi was our much younger SwissLimbs trainer, Bernardo, who took on the challenge of the most difficult cases in the midst of machine breakdowns and the occasional lack of tools, finding clever solution while handling it all in good humor. Bernardo is a gifted and skilled teacher, no doubt the best technician of his age in all Africa.

While training we fitted a total number of 10 beneficiaries; 3 Monolimbs, 2 modulars, 3 Above knees and 2 hands. The reasons for amputations varied from land mines which were residues from the civil war, traffic accidents, and gunshot wounds. Implementing SwissLimbs technology the technicians said they can cut down their fabrication time from 1 month, to 1 day, which will make a big difference in the lives of amputees who come from the far provinces.



Training while fitting patients, Dr. Mouzinho, Dr. Passe, Dra. Sulemane, Hospital and programs directors,

The success of this project could not have been achieved without the effective support of the MoH Administration. In particular Dr. Edma Sulemane from the National Program of Rehabilitation and Dr. Carlos Passe, National Director for the ortho-prosthetic program, who moved mountains to make things run like clockwork. Dr. Mouzinho Saïde the Hospital Director General, was particularly warm and inspiring for both patients and technicians at the opening and closing ceremonies. When all was said and done all agreed that this training needs to be implemented in the north of the Country, where there is the highest percentage of amputees yet the lowest available resources and solutions for them.



Thank you !

To all our donors, our dedicated team, supporters and partners.

This was one of our largest missions and from it SwissLimbs has now pioneered a permanent work in Mozambique.



BENEFICIARIES AND TESTIMONIALS



Absalome Antonio, 28, R-BK Monolimb

Absalome lost his leg due to complications from a gunshot wound. This is his first prosthetic means he can resume his trade as an auto mechanic. He is very happy at the possibility of returning to work.



Daniel Francisco, 60, R-BK, Monolimb

Daniel is a proud war veteran but also a land mine victim who is not only adamant about walking but insists on walking well.

He has had a few prostheses since the war ended but they all wore out rapidly. He is very enthusiastic to test the new prosthesis which is the lightest he has ever had.



Chade Omar, 31, L-BK Modular

In January 2018, Chade lost his leg when he fell in front of a moving train. This his first prosthetic, restores his lost mobility while enabling him to go back to work so he no longer feels that he is a physical or financial burden to his family. He is an advocate of "self-help" and wants to inspire all disabled people to take command their lives and make the most their situation, no matter what the condition.



Juliao Artur Mutemba, 59, L-Below Elbow

In June 2013 what was supposed to be a minor intervention ended up in an amputation for Juliao. At the time the doctors were on strike and so a nurse had to perform the operation, which was unsuccessful. He used to be a welder but is now employed as a telephone operator.

He is glad to have his cosmetic prosithis replaced with a proper functioning hand meaning he will be able to drive again.



Tânia Valeriano Ndlalane, R-AK, 37

Tânia, employed as a statistician, lost her leg in April 2018 as a result of a traffic accident. Despite this being her first fit since her accident 8 months previously she walked incredibly well. She has made it her personal mission to bring hope to all amputees who don't know that there is a mobility solution for their problem.



Artur Antônio Mapungue, 59, R-AK

Artur had to use a crutch in combination with his previous prosthetic so is thrilled with his greatly improved mobility. His desire is to be able to run, like those he has seen on other SwissLimb videos.

He is married with 2 adult daughters and works as a secretary. He was amputated in July 2014 due to a road traffic accident.



Dr. Elias José David, 45, L-AK All-Terrain Knee

Incredibly, Elias works as a medical doctor at the same hospital where the training was held. He has had 5 previous prostheses since he lost his leg in a traffic accident in 1997. As a fit and active person, he walks with exceptional ease, speed and comfort on his new leg which is motivating for him both personally and professionally

Dr Elias is married and has 3 children.



Jorge Geraldo Cofe, 44, L-BK Modular

It's been 17 years since the road traffic accident that caused the amputation of his left leg. Although limited in mobility he continued with his job as welder but says his new leg fits so well and he is now confident that he will be able to climb ladders as his job requires.



Jaime Severino Munguambe, 40, R-BK Monolimb

Jaime stepped on one of Mozambique's last remaining landmines just as the demining project was drawing to a close in 2003. He was so thrilled to replace his 15 years old prosthesis which was too short causing him severe contractions. As a Thatcher, he always felt unsafe with his old heavy leg, so is looking forward to the security and comfort his new Monolimb offers him.



Armando Jùlio, 55, Triple-Amputee, R-Transtibial

A selected beneficiary failed to arrive so when Armando walked into the workshop to request maintenance on one of his prosthetic legs, we could offer him an arm. A shy man, he has no family, no schooling or money and lives on the streets begging for his food. He stepped on a landmine when he was 20 losing both his legs and one arm. A slight smile betrayed his otherwise stern face, realizing his "luck". It brought a lot of joy to the whole team and encouraged all to never forget the least of the least.

Having a right hand for the first time was a welcome change, and Armando is keen to show his new devise to his friends on the street!