



## MISSION REPORT – UGANDA

Bidibidi refugee settlement- 14-24 March 2022

- Grand opening of the **Rehabilitation Center** in Bidibidi
- **7 orthopedic technicians** trained
- Restored the mobility of **7 amputees**

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# The mission

Uganda - 14 - 24 March 2022

From 14 to 24 March 2022 the SwissLimbs team (composed of the Executive Director Roberto Agosta and the Head-trainer and Ambassador for Africa Emmanuel Kalanzi) carried out the **40th training mission** in its history in Uganda!

The mission began in the **Bidibidi refugee settlement**, where the SwissLimbs team trained **6 orthopedic technicians and a shoemaker** in new low-cost technology innovations, restored mobility to **7 amputees**, but also inaugurated the **new rehabilitation center** that SwissLimbs has built in 2021 in partnership with the English NGO Hope Health Action, the New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center (see page 2 for more information).

Not just training, as the mission allowed Roberto Agosta to **visit other rehabilitation and development cooperation projects in Uganda**. On Thursday 17 March, he visited the **"Water for Bidibidi"** project funded by the SDC and promoted by the University of Neuchâtel. On Saturday, March 19, he traveled to Gulu, where SwissLimbs rehabilitated a physiotherapy in the **Regional Referral Hospital**, to visit the spaces renovated during the pandemic. On Monday 21 March he visited the **MBARARA Regional Referral Hospital** with its physiotherapy and orthopedic center, as well as the **refugee camp of Nakivale**, where were placed two *OffGridBoxes*, containers for the production of energy and clean water, a solution that SwissLimbs designs to install in Bidibidi, with the support of some Ticino municipalities.



SwissLimbs Executive Director, Roberto Agosta, together with Joyce Laker (Project Manager of AVSI, partner of SwissLimbs in Uganda), Nelson Mubiru (Orthopedic Technician and Manager of the New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center) and Emmanuel Kalanzi (Head Trainer and Ambassador of SwissLimbs for Africa).

# The New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center

Bidibidi refugee settlement - 14 - 24 March 2022



This mission was also the occasion **to inaugurate** the rehabilitation center that SwissLimbs - in collaboration with its partner Hope Health Action, under the supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR - built in the heart of the refugee settlement of Bidibidi: **the New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center.**

This rehabilitation center provides a range of **physiotherapy and orthopedic services** to people with disabilities living in the region, as well as in neighboring settlements. The center has also 50 people trained in community-based rehabilitation (CBR), who will guarantee training and support courses for the settlement community. Finally, the center includes a mobile clinic equipped with an orthopedics for the identification and provision of services to people with disabilities who cannot go independently to the rehabilitation center.

**The official inauguration** ceremony was held on **Wednesday 16 March 2022**, in the presence of local authorities, all project partners and of the people employed in the center.



# Training times

Bidibidi refugee settlement - 14 - 24 March 2022

Here are some pictures that best represent the five days of mission for the orthopedic technicians at the New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center, both in **training sessions** and during the **manufacturing of the prostheses**.



# Presentation of certificates

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At the end of the training week in Uganda, the orthopedic technician, ambassador and head trainer of SwissLimbs **Emmanuel Kalanzi**, together with the Executive Director of SwissLimbs **Roberto Agosta**, handed the certificates to the six orthopedic technicians and to the Bidibidi shoemaker 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 festive moment. Congratulations to everyone!



# The 7 participants

Bidibidi refugee settlement - 14 - 24 March 2022



**Nelson Mubiru**  
New Hope Bidibidi Center



**Emmanuel Emor**  
New Hope Bidibidi Center



**Harunah Ntabazi**  
Ortoteck Kampala



**Raphael Amodoi**  
Lira Regional Referral Hospital



**Benjamin Twongeirwe**  
Kumi Hospital



**Kennedy S. Omara**  
Lira Regional Referral Hospital



**Richard Onyango**  
New Hope Bidibidi Center  
(Shoemaker)

## SwissLimbs technician and head-trainer



**Emmanuel Kalanzi - SwissLimbs Ambassador for Africa,  
CPO & Chief Trainer – Uganda**

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.

# The beneficiaries and follow-up

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**Abel Idula**  
64 years old, from Moyo, transtibial amputee due to an infection since 2018. The prosthesis received on this mission is his first prosthesis.



**Francis Wadigo**  
57, from Moyo, transtibial amputee. During the mission he received a Monolimb which he wears with pride.



**Samuel Kenyi**  
53, South Sudanese refugee residing in Palorinya, transtibial amputee due to epilepsy. During a seizure he fell into the fire. He already had a very dated prosthesis, but now he has received a new Monolimb.



**Lawrence Opio**  
41 years old, from Abim, a transtibial amputee due to a car accident when he was two years old. During the mission he received a new Monolimb.



**Joseph Makesi**  
41, South Sudanese refugee residing in Bion, transtibial amputee due to a car accident in 2019. To remedy his amputation, he received a Monolimb too.



**Moses Abriga**  
38 years old, from Moyo, transfemoral amputee due to a truck accident while he was working. During SwissLimbs mission, he received a transfemoral prostheses.



**David Chandiga**  
19 years old, from Moyo, with a "Symes" ankle disarticulation caused by a car accident in 2021.

## Patients follow-up



After the training week, many other people with disabilities heard about the services offered by the New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Center and went there to get a new prosthesis and regain mobility.

# Visit to other projects

Uganda - 14 - 24 March 2022

During the mission, the executive director of SwissLimbs had also the opportunity to visit some projects in Uganda, in order to deepen some issues and develop future projects.

On Saturday 19 March, it was the turn of the **physiotherapy of the Gulu Regional Referral Hospital**, rehabilitated by SwissLimbs in 2020, through the renovation of the premises, the laying of a new floor and the procurement of new machinery and materials, and which in 2021 welcomed 2,273 patients.



On Monday 21 March, the Executive Director of SwissLimbs had the opportunity to visit the physiotherapy and orthopedic center of the **Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital**.

He then went to the **Nakivale refugee camp**, where there are containers for the production of water and clean energy, the **OffGridBoxes**. It is a small box with 12 solar panels on the roof, connected to a converter that directly produces usable energy, which is then stored in a battery, also equipped with a water collection system, which is stored in a polyethylene tank and become drinkable through the water treatment and sterilization system.

An OffGridBox container serves an average of 1,500 people (for an estimated total of up to 400 families), providing them with clean water and clean energy at an affordable price.

With the support of some **Ticino municipalities**, SwissLimbs is implementing a procurement project for an OffGridBox also in the **Bidibidi refugee camp**.

