



**“ONE STEP AT A TIME  
WE CHANGE THE WAY  
THE WORLD SEES  
DISABILITY”**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

# SWISSLIMBS, ACROSS BORDERS, SPREADING NEEDED TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

At SwissLimbs we believe that everyone, regardless of their background or financial situation, should have access to the best rehabilitation available.

SwissLimbs' mission is to provide physical rehabilitation in any part of the world where the need is urgent. We offer technical training, prostheses, orthoses and assistive devices, as well as all the machines and materials necessary to build a complete orthopedic workshop.

Our beneficiary patients are victims of wars, traumas, and diseases who live in places that do not have access to these services.

We care about our mission, and with responsibility and professionalism, we work to reach people in need of assistance and rehabilitation care.

The support of our sponsors and donors is vital for us to continue to change the way the world sees disability.

Your partnership is important to us!



Dear donors, supporters and friends

It's during this historic Covid-19 pandemic event that I'm writing these few words. I believe that the history of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be profoundly marked by this event and that the world we used to know has changed forever. To some extent, this pandemic will change our lifestyles, it is not totally clear in which way, and I cannot say whether things will get better with these changes. Nevertheless what I can say is that things must change if they are to become better.

This is to say that I'm still optimistic about the future and with this in mind, we at SwissLimbs want to be ready to catch the next opportunities to improve the lives of vulnerable and disabled people.

2019 was a remarkable and successful year for SwissLimbs. We delivered 1463 training hours in 4 different locations to 40 orthopedic technicians, and have restored mobility to over 594 patients. All these results are truly rewarding and give us the energy to work hard and with passion.

One new big challenge that is a true game changer for us, is our new Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pwani Kibaha in Tanzania. We're extremely excited to announce that SwissLimbs is building a 22-bed orthopaedic hospital equipped with a complete orthopaedic workshop. It is one of, hopefully many,

with this new innovative concept: a one-stop high quality medical facility. We're convinced that SwissLimbs is profoundly changing the orthopaedic environment in Tanzania and in all Eastern Africa and that your support is generating a huge impact in our patients' lives.

I wish you wonderful reading and humbly hope that you will be inspired by this report.

Yours truly,



**FILIPPO NISHINO**  
SwissLimbs President

**IN 2019 WE DELIVERED 1463 TRAINING HOURS  
IN 4 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS TO  
40 ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIANS,  
AND HAVE RESTORED MOBILITY  
TO 594 PATIENTS.**





# FOR ME, 2019 WAS MARKED BY THREE KEY WORDS: COMMITMENT, MULTIPLICATION, EXPANSION.

Quarantine for many disabled people is a daily reality. For those who have no access to adequate rehabilitation services or the possibility to receive an artificial limb or just a simple wheelchair, it means staying at home, being cut off from society, like in a forced quarantine! Not for a few weeks or months, but for their whole lives.

These days we all know what that feels like, as we are all forced to stay at home to stop the spreading of a deadly virus.

Compassion and understanding are vital, but we want to go beyond that. We want to lift people out of the quarantine that disability has imposed on them, so that they can go out and about with no shame or fear. Like Robert M. Hensel\* once said: "My disability has opened my eyes to see my true abilities", we want to give people the chance to rise and be all they can be.

(\*Guinness World Records holder for the longest non-stop wheelie in a wheelchair)

## FOR ME, 2019 WAS MARKED BY THREE KEY WORDS: COMMITMENT. MULTIPLICATION. EXPANSION.

**Commitment:** to go where the need is.

We always have to ensure that our projects reflect the people's needs, not Western priorities and that we reach even the remotest. For this reason, we created the Mobile Clinic in Mwanza that will be able to serve the disabled in their homes.

**Multiplication:** We saw a beautiful organic growth in the numbers of technicians that are exposed to new technological skills and are now able to pass them on to others. Especially the Monolimb and the myoelectric hand are being taught by our local partners to new professionals.

**Expansion:** With the addition of a new location we are rapidly increasing the range of services we offer. The building of a new comprehensive rehabilitation hospital in Tanzania marks a new level of expansion in our work. The Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Center will offer all rehabilitation services under the same roof. It will have in- and out-patient services, a fully equipped orthopedic workshop, a physiotherapy unit and a fully specialized medical and surgical wing.

I believe that we can do more, and together with our friends and supporters we will reach greater heights in the year to come.



**ROBERTO AGOSTA**

SwissLimbs  
Executive Director

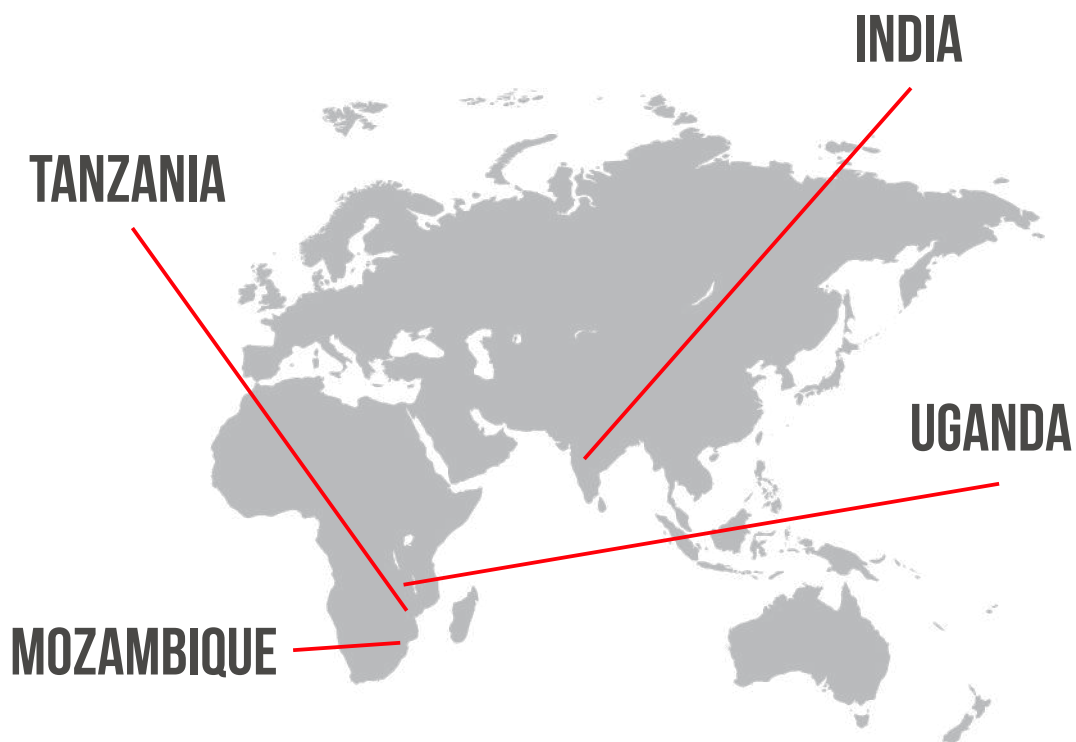


# 2019

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2019 SwissLimbs highlighted the importance of technical training of orthopedic professionals and interventions even among the most remote locations in Africa and India. Bringing rehabilitation services closer to the people is crucial for the growth of developing countries.

SwissLimbs' scope grew from just manufacturing prosthetic legs to a whole range of services to respond to the growing needs of rehabilitation in developing nations.



### OUR FOCUS

- Capacity Building
- Delivery of Orthopedic and Prosthetic services
- Establishment of Orthopedic Workshops
- Construction of a Rehabilitation Hospital



# INDIA

## TRAINING IN JAMKHEDE, MAHARASHTRA



### SWISSLIMBS' FIRST MISSION OF 2019

was to a small town in the heart of India called Jamkhed. To reach it one needs to take a 2-hour flight from New Delhi to Pune then travel overland for another 5 hours.



Young medical assistants at CRHP.

## AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF HEALERS

Jamkhed is home to the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), which amongst other impacting community development projects runs a 50-bed hospital, fully dedicated to serve the poorest of the poor in a community of 500,000 people.

SwissLimbs joined G.I.C.A.M. on their bi-annual mission. G.I.C.A.M is an NGO of hand and foot surgeons who have been voluntarily supporting the CRHP with their professional skills for almost 10 years.

Team members travelled from Switzerland and Italy and were joined in India by colleagues from Uganda and Australia making up a true international "team of healers". Some specialized in operating on existing limbs to restore functionality, others in giving prosthetics to restore mobility to those who had lost limbs.

SwissLimbs presented training in several technologies which were until then, unknown in India. The needs of rural India are huge and it is our hope to be able to support the CRHP by establishing a fully equipped orthopedic Centre in the near future.



Emmanuel Kalanzi & Roberto Agosta of SwissLimbs with our helpers Jabbar and Jairash - all in a team effort.

# UGANDA



## GULU COLLABORATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND FIELD PRACTICE

This year, like every year since 2016, we went to Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop (GROW) for yet another training module in collaboration with AVSI Foundation Uganda. The 20 participants were collaborative and grateful for all the novel technical training they received. During this mission, we partly focused on cases that required complex technical interventions. Both technicians and patients left satisfied.

During the workshop, participants had theoretical and practical training on a variety of prosthetic and orthotic technologies, aptly demonstrated by our SwissLimbs Chief Technologist Daniele Kläy.

At the conclusion of the training each technician went home with a set of materials to produce Monolimbs in their own centre and a network of new colleagues to rely on.



*Daniele Kläy SwissLimbs Trainer teaching in Gulu, Uganda.*

## ARUA HELPING REHABILITATE SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES



South Sudan's split from Northern Sudan in 2010 has yet to produce the desired outcome of being an autonomous, stable nation. Within a few years a civil war broke out which generated one of the highest numbers of refugees per single nation: 3.7 million, of which 1.2 million alone are in Uganda.

The Bidi Bidi settlement is one of the largest in the world, it expands over a radius of 250 km of waste land and houses 223,000 refugees. The most basic medical facilities are lacking and there is no Orthopedic or rehabilitative assistance whatsoever for the disabled.

SwissLimbs conducted a context analysis with our partner AVSI Uganda and started making plans to provide the most essential needs: Technical training, Orthopedic machines and tools to refurbish the Arua Orthopedic workshop and materials and components for the manufacturing of prostheses and assistive devices.



*The Bidibidi reception centre in Uganda's Yumbe district, 300 km north of Kampala.*

# TANZANIA

INAUGURATION, MORE TRAINING, BREAKING NEW GROUND



## MWANZA

Thanks to our partner [Mand.ro](#) and Yohanna Jeong's expertise, participants received state-of-the-art training on how to assemble and mount an artificial hand: "Bringing the 3D printer to Mwanza was the best idea," said Claude Mushi, the manager of the M.O.P.W. "Now we can print our hands. This is the future of prosthetics in Africa"



*Yohanna Jeong's Operatios Director Mand.ro with two students.*

**"SWISSLIMBS, SAILING AT FULL SPEED!"**

**Yes. That's how we felt in 2019 with the inauguration of the Mwanza Prosthetic and Orthopedic Workshop.**

**The motto of the Mwanza Prosthetic and Orthopedic Workshop:**

**"DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY"**

September 18<sup>th</sup> marked the official opening of the orthopedic workshop that SwissLimbs established in Mwanza. The Regional Commissioner cut the ribbon and with great enthusiasm promised his support to this initiative, starting with a gift of the first 200 liters of fuel for the new mobile clinic. A promise that he kept! Mwanza is a small town on Lake Victoria in a Region comprising of a population of 10 million people, with virtually no functioning physical rehabilitation clinics. Thanks to the Swiss-Italian association Kammea and the generosity of a Swiss family foundation, this project could be realized.

In November 2019 SwissLimbs hosted its first International training at the Mwanza workshop for orthopedic professionals from East and Southern Africa. It was a resounding success. Not only was the instruction given by an international team from 3 continents (Europe, Africa, Asia) but also the combined knowledge of the 20 technicians from 4 nations (Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique) made the training experience richer than ever expected. The knowledge sharing was spontaneous and ongoing.



*Regional Commissioner congratulating SwissLimbs on the Mobile Clinic initiative.*



# MWANZA ORTHOPEDIC & PROSTHETIC WORKSHOP

Last year we created the Mwanza Orthopedic & Prosthetic Workshop which was officially inaugurated by the authorities in September 2019.

In a very short time the MOPW gained a good reputation for being a center with excellent staff with high skills and technologies unknown in the Country. It's the only center in the region with a 3D printer for the manufacturing of the myoelectric hands.

Furthermore, the center is supplying materials and tools to others around Tanzania to overcome the constant running out of stock and the interruption of work due to the lack of supplies. Now all this is changing thanks to their assistance.



The Mwanza Regional Commissioner inaugurating the MPOW.



Students' Graduation at the end of the training week.

# KIBAHA

## COLLABORATION, PROFESSIONALISM AND PRACTICE ON THE FIELD

Medical services in general in Tanzania are insufficient to meet the health-care needs of its population. Under even greater strain are the rehabilitation services, specialized surgical procedures and post operation care.

The Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Kibaha has been established to meet this critical and urgent need for the people of the Pwani district and beyond.

Serving over 1 million people, the facility will encompass 2 operating theaters, 22 beds for resident patients, outpatient clinical services, a pharmacy, a rehabilitation centre with an orthopedic workshop as well as a physiotherapy unit. A residential unit, a canteen and a training facility will be built during the second phase of the project. This medical facility that is unique to the nation was born in the heart of Stella Kitali\* and Dr. Bryceson Kiwelu and will be constructed this year, opening its doors to thousands of patients shortly.

*\*See Stella Kitali's detailed account in the Special Focus section.*



*Kibaha hospital*

# INUKA

## A SPECIAL CARING HOSPITAL

A beautiful hospital tucked away in the Njombe Southern Highlands of Tanzania, the Inuka Hospital serves communities that would otherwise have no assistance. We had a short, intense and practical training there in December. The focus was to introduce the Orthopedic technicians to the myoelectric hand and the Monolimb leg which is the best high-mobility and low-cost solution for prosthetics in Africa.



*Roberto, Bryceson, Stella and Filippo*



*Training and graduation at Inuka Hospital*

The hospital cares for various treatments (strokes, fractures, surgery) as well as specific mobility needs for the individual. It also hosts a Rehabilitation Centre with specialized orthoses, prostheses and physiotherapy treatments, a hostel to accommodate patients and their family members and an outreach program which assists more than 300 disabled children.



# MOZAMBIQUE

## BEIRA

### AFTER CYCLONE IDAI



In the aftermath of cyclone Idai that devastated the city of Beira in March 2019, very little was left intact. Fortunately, the central hospital of Beira was a very solid structure and remained standing yet much of the roofing and the internal infrastructure is damaged. The same went for the orthopedic department. SwissLimbs mobilized aid to help with the restoration of machinery, supplies and other materials. Even though the roof has not yet been replaced the workshop has been able to resume services to amputees and disabled persons in and around Beira.



*Devastation after Cyclone Idai*



*Damages in the Beira Orthopedic workshop*



*Oliveira Mocuna, director of Youth with a Mission distributing survival kits to needy families.*

# INHAMIZUA

## REBUILDING OF A SCHOOL AND NEW HOMES

In the Beira area there are millions of people living in communities called “Bairros”. Some would call them “Favelas”, others “Bidonville”, all mean the same thing: A high concentration of people living in extreme poverty. Cyclone Idai increased the 'Bairros' poverty by destroying homes and unharvested crop fields. Although this is not quite SwissLimbs' traditional mission engagement, we were able to offer some timely and important help to some of these communities.

Thanks to the generosity of Swiss donors, we were able to support the building of 7 family homes and rebuild premises for a primary school that educates 700 children of which 30 are resident orphans.



*New desks for 700 children*



*A better living conditions for 30 orphans*

## 7 NEW HOMES FOR 7 FAMILIES



*A new home for Helena, a widow with 3 children*



*Oliveira Mocuna of YWAM handing over the keys to the new home*



# MAPUTO

## NEW ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP

This year we have been busy forming a new partnership with the Obra dom Orione in Maputo, Mozambique's capital. Plans were made to establish a new Orthopedic Centre there.

The Dom Orione cares for 39 severely disabled resident children and over 50 external patients with their rehabilitative needs. These children have been rejected by society and often even their own family, but are welcome at Dom Orione's center.

As soon as all the Mozambican import documentation is ready, we will be able to send a container which is packed and ready to go containing all machines, tools and materials for the manufacturing of orthotic and prosthetic devices needed to establish an orthopedic workshop. Also included are a number of specialized orthotic devices, walking and assistive devices and wheelchairs. Once unpacked on the other side, we can begin a new rehabilitation program.



*residents of the Dom Orione center.*



*Where there are no seating devices, mattresses are the only option.*

# UPCOMING TRAINING

## KENYA

The need for specialized Orthopedic training seems limitless. The National Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya is one of the largest hospitals in East Africa. They were also the first to approach SwissLimbs for a request for a training mission in 2020. We gladly welcomed the challenge and immediately began the search for sponsorships to make it possible to take our valuable specialized training to this key location.



*Kenyatta National Hospital - Nairobi*

# SPECIAL FOCUS - KIBAHA

THE DESIRE CHARITABLE HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTRE – A TRUE DREAM

by Stella Kitali

In any part of the world, access to essential surgical services is an important indicator of a successful health care system. In Tanzania, as in many other countries, millions of people's lives are significantly threatened due to this very challenge. I was personally confronted with the terrible reality of this shortage while caring for a close relative back in 2009. During that time, I was employed as a Ground Handling Manager with Swissport at the Tanzanian Dar es Salaam's airport but was fortunate to meet Dr. Bryceson Kiwelu, a post graduate student pursuing a Master's degree in Orthopedic and Trauma. Despite the hospital's conditions, he was able to assist me and the necessary emergency operation was successfully administered.



This episode made us both realize the extreme lack of high quality medical care in our nation and that we could not just be bystanders, we needed to do something. A dream was born in our hearts and minds that carries us through to this day. We studied the root causes and conducted a deep context analysis of the situation. Our next step was to draft a plan that responded to the goals and strategies of the World Health Organization and the Government of Tanzania, calling for multi- sector collaborations in improving access not only to essential surgical services but also specialized rehabilitation services. The final result was a plan to construct a specialized charitable hospital complete with rehabilitation services as well as a research and teaching facility for generating a robust healthcare workforce for Tanzania and beyond.



With this plan in mind we registered a company in 2013 under the name, Tanzania True Exposure (TTE) as a platform for local and international collaboration. Using our personal savings, we purchased a piece of land in a strategic location in 2015 and started work to make this dream a reality. We registered the name 'The Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre' and laid the foundations for the 1st phase of the Centre. In 2017, we met Filippo and Roberto from SwissLimbs while they were on a training mission in several locations through Tanzania. Both of them realized how huge the needs are in our country as in Switzerland there is a hospital for every 28,000 people, in Tanzania 1 for every 211,000. Thus, they decided to help us and initiated a search for potential donors.



As a result, in 2019 we met the wonderful people who share our desire to make this vision concrete. Thanks to their support, we spent the year working on the construction of an eco-friendly building, powered by solar energy and equipped with machineries and an orthopedic workshop. We aim to be operational before the end of 2020.

We thank SwissLimbs for their patronage, professional advice and swift speed of action. We also express our gratitude to the precious donors, who prefer to remain anonymous, yet share our passion to see high quality health care brought to the needy and financially challenged communities such as ours.

Upon completion of phase1 we will have a rehabilitation center complete with a 22-bed hospital, two operating theaters, an emergency unit, a laboratory, a pharmacy, a radiology department, outpatient services, and an orthopedic workshop. It is expected to serve about 28,985 patients within the 1st five years of operation. Those patients who have the financial means and/or insurance will pay for their treatment while the poor and needy will benefit from free or subsidized services. In Phase 2 we will create a diagnostic Centre, and in Phase 3 the Centre of Excellence College for medical personnel and a rest house. We believe that despite the challenges and the negative impact of the Corona pandemic, with the help of God, we shall see its realization.

Yours Faithfully



**STELLA KITALI**  
General Director  
Desire Charitable Hospital  
& Rehabilitation Centre



# FUTURE EVENTS

## CYBATHLON 2020 COMPETITION!

AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE OUR VIEW ON DISABILITY



**“Every Challenge is a step to a more meaningful future!”**

The SwissLimbs' team will participate in the Cybathlon 2020 competition! This event occurs every four years and is organized by the Zurich Polytechnic, and will take place in Zurich-Kloten 19th-20th September 2020.

Cybathlon is an international competition aimed at showcasing the latest technologies and innovation to better the lives of people with disabilities to the world. You will even see people there, rising from a wheelchair and walking for the first time, thanks to exoskeleton supports that look like they've just come out of space. SwissLimbs took the challenge to show the world what can be done in developing nations using low-cost devices with high-tech performance. For this second edition, pilots will have to test themselves in tasks that will engage them in activities such as getting out of a chair, walking or handling objects. It will be a unique opportunity for Khalfan, 36, from Tanzania to participate showing how well he can handle his new Transfemoral prosthesis.

Khalfan had his leg amputated at the age of thirteen due to a snake bite. Since then, his life has not been an easy ride, quite the opposite. Gaining independent movement and working autonomy were considerable achievements for him, only possible, thanks to his willpower and the help of his family.



In 2019, Khalfan received his first Transfemoral prosthesis with a knee-joint that will allow him to compete in Cybathlon 2020 in the "Leg prosthesis Race" category. His challenge is to show the world that one can reach high mobility even with a device that costs a few hundred as opposed to thousands of dollars.

**"Cybathlon moves People and Technology"**

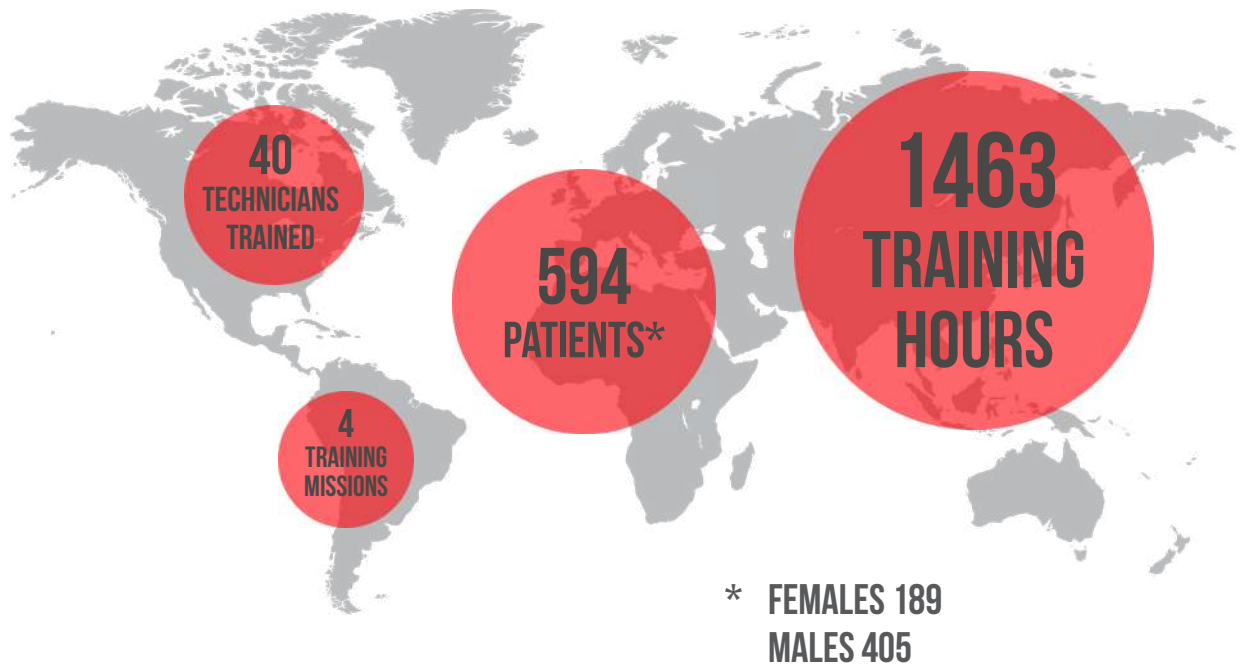
Join us on September 19th-20th and cheer for Khalfan at the Swiss Arena in Kloten, Zurich.

Tickets are available on [www.cybathlon.ethz.ch](http://www.cybathlon.ethz.ch)

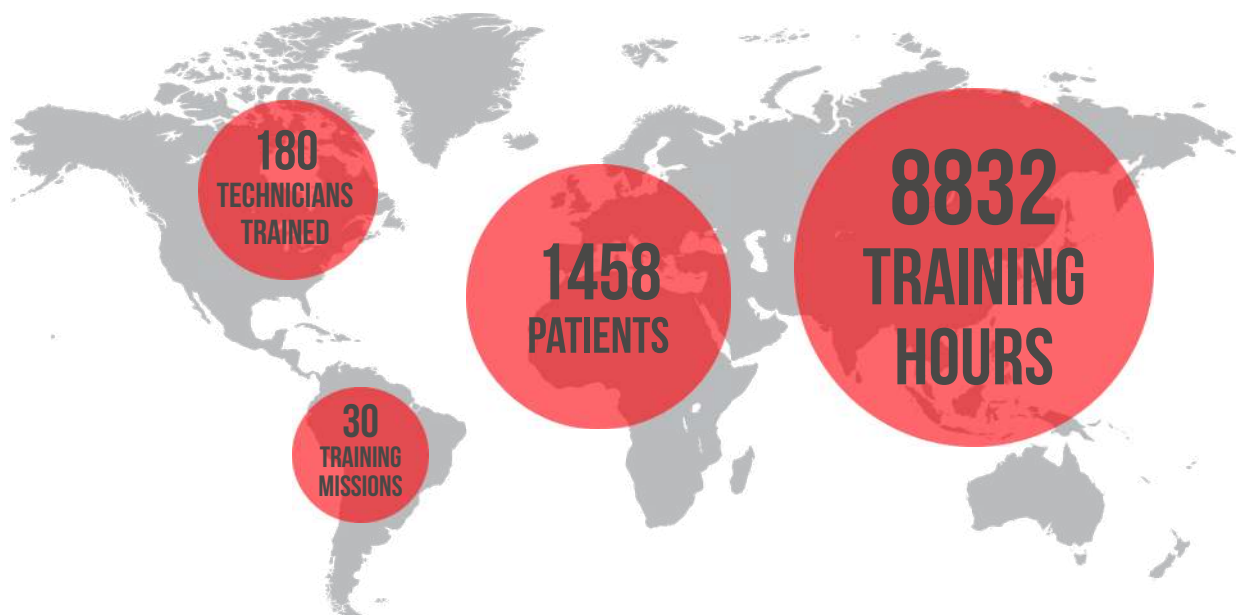


# STATISTICS

## 2019



## OVERALL



# TESTIMONIAL

## ASIA PATRIC – 19 YEARS OLD, BILATERAL BELOW KNEE AMPUTEE

Asia tragically lost both of her legs and 9 fingers due to a post operation infection. She was 2 months pregnant when she started having pains and bleedings. She was taken to the hospital where they told her she was going to lose the baby. The procedure went very wrong and Asia was in a coma for 4 days. An infection set in and one month later her legs and fingers contracted gangrene and had to be amputated at the Bugando hospital in Mwanza where she stayed for an additional two months.

For many months, Asia was depressed about the ordeal she went through, never hoped that she would ever walk again. When she met Claude Mushi, director of Mwanza Prosthetic and Orthotic Workshop, she was told that making her walk was very much possible with two new artificial legs.

At that moment, a smile on her face returned for the first time in months and she has not stopped since.

Asia is now a regular in our workshop. She comes to meet and encourages other amputees, she helps young technicians who practice their skills on her stumps and she is getting quite a collection of legs as a result.



**Her artificial limbs changed her life -  
and the life of many others.**

**Asia received her first legs in April 2019  
at the Mwanza Prosthetic and  
Orthotic Workshop in Tanzania.**

# FINANCIAL SITUATION

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Δ</b>
Cash & equivalents	94'180	169'933	-75'753
Other current assets	0	24'448	-24'448
Tangible assets	9'000	3'000	6'000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>103'180</b>	<b>197'380</b>	<b>-94'201</b>
Third parties capital - short term	2'000	2'550	-550
Third parties capital - long term	<b>B</b> 55'000	160'000	-105'000
<b>Third parties capital</b>	<b>57'000</b>	<b>162'550</b>	<b>-105'550</b>
Own capital	34'830	25'295	9'535
Earnings/(losses)	<b>C</b> 11'349	9'535	1'814
<b>Equity</b>	<b>46'180</b>	<b>34'830</b>	<b>11'349</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>103'180</b>	<b>197'380</b>	<b>-94'201</b>
<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Δ</b>
Revenues from ortho-prosthetic materials	35'317	76'994	-41'677
Donations for Mozambique Projects	225'667	84'212	141'455
Donations for Ugandan Projects	75'000	20'000	55'000
Donations for Tanzanian Projects	294'910	130'000	164'910
Other donations	36'755	101'350	-64'595
<b>Total revenues and donations</b>	<b>667'648</b>	<b>412'555</b>	<b>255'093</b>
Cost of goods & services donated and sold	-494'375	-314'950	-179'425
<b>Contribution Margin</b>	<b>173'274</b>	<b>97'605</b>	<b>75'668</b>
Personnel	<b>A</b> -89'989	-44'874	-45'115
<b>Value added</b>	<b>83'285</b>	<b>52'732</b>	<b>30'554</b>
Rentals	-3'000	-3'250	250
Car and transport costs	-869	-1'286	417
Administrative and IT expenditures	-35'274	-5'527	-29'746
Prints, advertising and representation costs	-28'565	-31'134	2'569
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>15'578</b>	<b>11'535</b>	<b>4'043</b>
Depreciations and amortizations	-4'229	-2'000	-2'229
<b>EBIT</b>	<b>11'349</b>	<b>9'535</b>	<b>1'814</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>11'349</b>	<b>9'535</b>	<b>1'814</b>

Notes:

- A. Only the cost of our hired professional staff are included. The significant contribution made by volunteers is not factored into this expense.
- B. Third parties' capital – long term: refers mainly to SwissLimbs' open project commitments in Tanzania and Mozambique.
- C. Net earning is fully allocated to SwissLimbs' own capital as per the general assembly held the 31st of March 2020.

SwissLimbs' financial statements are audited by an independent external auditor on a pro-bono basis.

# SwissLimbs

Mobility now.

## SWISSLIMBS

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## BANK DETAILS

Bank: Postfinance SA, Bern, Switzerland  
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## FOLLOW US



[www.swisslimbs.org](http://www.swisslimbs.org)

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS:



A special thanks goes also to those important donors who have made a huge difference in our work and prefer to remain anonymous.

