

MISSION REPORT – TANZANIA

September 2018

✓ **TRAINED 18 Orthopaedic Technicians in 3 Locations in Tanzania**

✓ **RESTORED mobility to 18 satisfied patients with 20 O&P services**



IMPLEMENTOR: SwissLimbs Association, CH-6514 Sementina, Switzerland

DONORS: Medicor Foundation, Liechtenstein, Kammea Association, Riva San Vitale, Fondation de Bienfaisance du Groupe Pictet, Geneva

PARTNER: Ministry of Health of Tanzania, Dodoma

3 LOCATIONS IN TANZANIA:

- **Kagondo** – St. Joseph's Hospital
- **Dodoma** – Regional Referral Hospital
- **Mbeya** – Zonal Referral Hospital

During the 2018 mission in Tanzania we offered training to 3 hospitals covering large territories where ortho-prosthetic services are offered in the north, central and southern parts of the country.

Travelling in Africa is a challenging; there are long distances between locations that need to be transversed by means of unreliable private and publicly owned cars, buses and boats. Despite such odds our team was able to timely execute the three missions which increased the number of trained CPO's (Certified Ortho-Prosthetists) and served beneficiaries.

Below is an account of our work, with name and photo of each of our trainees and beneficiaries. A picture says more than thousand words so we have used them liberally taking the time to record each beneficiary's powerful story of resilience, which we believe it makes all the difference.

KAGONDO – St. Joseph’s Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital is a missionary hospital owned by the Bukoba Catholic Diocese and is located on the west side of Lake Victoria close to the Ugandan border. It has a capacity of approximately 300 beds and performs orthopaedic surgeries, with approximately 3-5 amputations each month. The hospital has a small but functional orthopaedic workshop. SwissLimbs performed a prosthetic training focusing on lower limbs, resulting in:

3 trained technicians - 5 Patients rehabilitated with 6 Legs (2 Modular, 3 Monolimbs, 1 confidence socket)



**Julius Materu, 58
CPO**



**Nsengiyumva G.
Magogwa, 28, CPO**



**Justin Stalin, 22, CPO
Assistant**

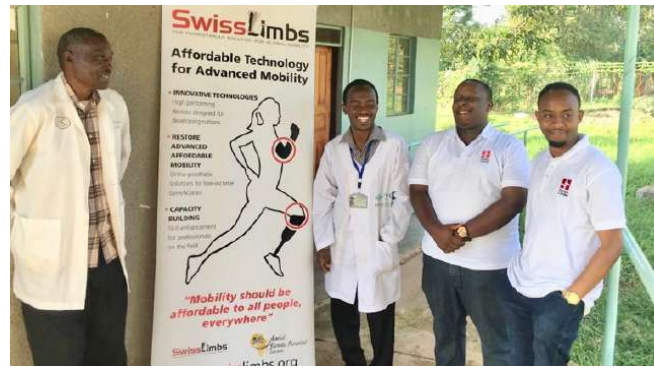


**The St. Joseph's Hospital Technicians with their
patients**

The Training Team



Graduation of the technicians



The CPO team



Finished legs

The Beneficiaries of Kagondo Hospital



**Arnold, R-BK
Car accident**



**Omway, L-BK
Car accident**



**Denis, 22, R-AK,
Car accident**



**Latifa, Double-BK,
Car accident**



**Asha, L-BK, Comfort
Socket. Car Accident**

DODOMA Regional Referral Hospital




The orthopaedic department of this Government hospital in the national capital of Dodoma is large and well kept. The sizeable CPO team of 4 full time and 3 volunteers staff is young and motivated. Unfortunately the hospital does not properly prioritise its rehabilitation services so there is a lack of many components and materials which are necessary to make a prostheses.

In an incredible short space of time, SwissLimbs was able to train 7 Technicians, give service to 7 Beneficiaries with 7 devises (2 Mono-limbs, 1 Modular, 1 Above Knee, 1 Knee dis-articulation, 1 Ortho-prosthesis, 1 Myoelectric hand).

The CPO Team

						
Festo D. Mgata, 29	Julius Mwakasege 34	Upendo Mwalusamba, 29	Lilian Mrisha, 27	Arbogast S. Mikindo, 29	Kalvin Sekemi Mmbugu, 25	Joseph Isdory, 28

The Beneficiaries at Dodoma RRH, and brief testimonials

	<p>Abeid Yunus, 38, L-BK (Modular) – Road traffic accident. Bus driver Abeid could not wait for his leg to be finished because he had to go back to work immediately. As a bus driver he travels the Dodoma-Dar es Salaam road daily. The very few people who know he is an amputee say that he is an excellent driver. Abeid received a SwissLimbs “Monolimb” last year but being a big man, his stump has now shrunk and needs a replacement. He has now benefitted of a modular leg from SwissLimbs on September 21st.</p>
	<p>Ayuni Mohamed, 36 - L-BK (Monolimb) – Mother and farmer. Fell from a moving tractor. Ayuni is a mother of 7 children. After her accident in 2017 the first thing that concerned her was not being able to care for her family anymore. She benefited of a SwissLimbs sponsored artificial leg which was her first fitting since the accident. She is overjoyed about her regained mobility and can't wait to go back to tending her farm and other chores.</p>
	<p>Frederik Kitinya, 22 – L-AK (All-Terrain Knee) – Future business man, lost his leg in a tractor accident. Frederik fell under the wheel of a moving tractor in 2017. Despite this being his first fitting he was confidently walking without crutches on his new prosthetic within 48 hours. (Read full testimonial)</p>

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Chesco Joseph, 43, - Trans-radial amputee - Hopes to regain employment as driver, truck accident.

This father of 4 lost his hand in a job related accident as an excavation truck driver. He was so happy to get a functional artificial hand and now wants to go back to his old job immediately. Was fitted with Myo-electric hand (Read full testimonial)



Eva Filimoni Mboto, 40, R-BK (Monolimb) - Mother and trader, Car accident
Eva has been an amputee since 1978. She raised her 3 children as a single mother managing with just one leg. Her previous prosthetic was too old, too short and caused her chronic back pains.



Vaileti Gabriel Aloyce, 27, R-Through-knee amputee. Mother, childhood fire related accident.

Vaileti was only 3 years old when her leg was so badly burned it had to be amputated. Unfortunately, the amputation was poorly executed, leaving her with half a knee joint. At age 13 she was given a rigid unbending artificial leg which she had been wearing for 14 years. Wear and tear had caused the prosthetic to become shorter, wider and rigid which caused her to limp with terrible pains. She needs a special knee joint for dis-articulation which she would never have been able to afford. **Association Kammea** of Switzerland, while on a visit to Kwediboma, sponsored her to come to Dodoma to receive a new leg which was fitted during the SwissLimbs mission there. Vaileti is a mother of 2 young children.



Amina Chamuino, 49, L-Ortho-Prosthesis - Mother and trader, Congenital disease.

Amina has been a widow since 1992 and has 4 children. She can't wait to get her new OP leg which will resolve her back pains caused by her old short device which she has been wearing for 20 years! She raised her 3 children by selling food on the street







Graduation of the 7 Trainees



Mbeya – Zonal Referral Hospital

The small team at the Mbeya Hospital was joined by 3 other CPO’s from surrounding districts who jumped to the occasion of receiving free orthopedic enhancement training. We were glad to have them as they proved to be exceptionally gifted and highly motivated. The head of the orthopedic department, Lulu, is a dynamic, capable technician with high standards and great empathy for workers and patients alike. Overall we trained 6 technicians, 6 Beneficiaries with 7 devises (1 Above Knee, 6 Below knee, 1 Myo-electric hand).

The Team

					
Lulu Mwaibanje	Beatrice J. Hankungwe	Yusuph Ahmad	Ernest William Ugulumu	Jim Jonas Mwandenga	Tanish Malik Mwigani

The Beneficiaries

		
Rafael Mwanguale, 36, L-AK, Injury while playing football,	Jafason Mwapina, 66, R-BK. Leg infection	Frank Mambwe, 33, L-BK, Accident
		
Agrey Kabanga, 44, LB-Elbow Accident at work	Marry Mwamwembe, 20, Double-BK, Car Accident	Abel Rafael, 44, R-BK, Motorcycle Accident



The Mbeya team with their beneficiaries



Marry proudly showing off her new legs with her technicians.

TESTIMONIALS

Latifa Said, 24 year old mother and business woman from Dodoma, Tanzania



Before Latifa was left for dead in the road by a hit-and-run driver, her life was pretty normal. Married with 2 small boys she kept her home and earned a small income buying and selling clothes at the market.

After the accident, passers-by helped get her to a nearby hospital where she remained unconscious for another 7 days. By the time she woke, both of her legs had been amputated from below the knee. After a month of recovery in hospital she returned home but without prosthetics, it was almost impossible to resume her usual activities. Not long later, the family situation deteriorated and she and her husband decided to separate, so Latifa was forced to move back into her mother's home with the youngest of her two sons, sending the older one to live with her sister.

Losing both of her legs was very traumatic for Latifa. Until she came to terms with the loss of her limbs, she cried inconsolably for days. Once she overcame the grief of losing her legs, home and husband she has managed to find ways to get many of her household chores done on her stumps. If she needed to go to the market to sell clothes, she shuffled to the door and called for the motorbike taxi to come to the door and friends help her do the grocery shopping. Still, many people stared, she didn't always feel safe out in public and some of her previous friends just do not come by anymore. On her meagre existence, prosthetics just wasn't an option she felt she could consider.

When the option to be sponsored for free prosthetic fittings came her way, she immediately signed up. Having legs again means she no longer needs to go through her days on her knees. She can resume care for her boys and have more options to expand her business.

Today she is a different person! The day she received her new legs, the sadness of the past few years quickly faded and she became the vibrant and chatty woman she was before. The joy of being able to walk again bubbles over in smiles, chatter and evident joy at having her previous stature restored.

Her legs were donated on September 15th, 2018 at Kagondo Hospital during a **SwissLimbs** training mission sponsored by **Medicor Foundation**.

Asha Said - 30 year old teacher from Tanzania.



In January 2016 Asha was travelling by public transport from Shinyanga, her home town to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. She was on her way to attend her classes to earn a diploma in Social Education.

The driver lost control of the vehicle as it was about to cross a bridge. Crashing into the bridge infrastructure, one of the railings pierced through the body of the bus severing part of Asha's leg. The assistant bus driver took Asha to a local hospital where it was decided that she needed to be transferred to a more central care facility. 24 hours later Asha's leg was amputated.

In the absence of the usual counselling that usually accompanies such a traumatic medical intervention like this, Asha struggled to come to terms with the loss of her limb. After a few weeks of deep sorrow Asha slowly started to make plans that would allow her to resume her studies and find employment.

SwissLimbs, in collaboration with Kagondo Hospital and thank to its donor Medicor Foundation, has donated her a below knee prosthesis allowing her to have mobility independent of crutches for which she is very grateful. Her new prosthetic allows her to make her first steps in reconstructing the future she had planned for herself.

Denis Selemane – 20 year old father from Tanzania



Denis comes from a large family. Because academia was not his strongest suit, he was forced to leave the public education system at the end of grade 7. The only way to obtain a school leaving certificate would be to attend a private school, which for his family was not possible financially. As a 16 year old in 2014, he was sitting near a shop when a the driver in a passing car lost control of his vehicle and drove over him. Never losing consciousness he felt the full extent of the excruciating pain of his crushed legs. He thought he was going to die. Doctors performed 4 operations which allowed him to regain the use of his right leg but his left leg had to be amputated above the knee.

Denis, a husband and father of a 9 month old son is thrilled with his new leg. The previous prosthetic was worn out but his new leg with its All Terrain Knee, gives him a lot more mobility.

SwissLimbs, thanks to **Medicor Foundation's** sponsorship, fitted Denis with an above knee prosthetic leg which he's wearing comfortably and with great confidence.

Chesco Joseph – 43 years old father of 4 from Dodoma



Chesco is married and has 4 children from the ages of 3 to 13. He tells us his story with a smile on his face, because of what will be in his life, rather than what it has been.

"I was working as an operator of an excavation truck for a local company. Each day they would transport us to the work site on the back of the company lorry. One morning our driver hit a diesel carrier. Of the 65 people involved in the accident, 6 died. Some had more minor injuries but I lost my right arm above the elbow."

“Staff of my employers took me to the KCMC (the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre) to be fitted shoulders causing me constant pain for the time I had it on. After 5 years it became worn out so I stopped using it and never sought a replacement prosthetic”.

On 21st September 2018 Chesco was fitted and trained with the myoelectric hand. He was in awe of its functionality and smiled constantly as he practised using it. At his own insistence he left the workshop carrying his bag in his right hand. His next step towards restoring the life he once had is to return to his boss and ask for his old job back and an excavation truck driver.

Frederik Kitinya – 22 years old from Dodoma

Frederik has been amputated Above the knee just last year. These are his first steps on a prosthetic leg.



Frederik lives at home with his parents and his 7 other siblings.

“We were travelling to the family farm on a tractor when I fell off. My leg was trapped between the huge tire and solid fender of the vehicle. I was conscious and in total agony for all the time it took my family to untangle my leg from the tractor and transport me to the nearest hospital. I was in despair for 3 weeks as the doctors tried to save my leg, I really did not want to lose it. In the end they assured me that amputation followed by the fitting of a prosthetic was the best option for me to regain my lost mobility, so I consented. Although my wound healed

well, my family could not afford the TZS 5 million (almost Euro 2000.00) to purchase me a prosthesis.

When my accident happened, I was in in Form 4, the last year of state sponsored education in Tanzania. To complete the final 2 years of high school and study at a university, my parents would need to pay my tuition fees. I would like to be a businessman one day and open my own shop.”

As a first-time user of an above knee prosthetic, Frederik would normally have required at least one week of training before being able to walk without the aid of crutches. Encouraged by the chance he thought he had lost forever of being able independently mobile again, he walked unaided and confidently out of the workshop two days after his fitting.

On 21st September 2018 Frederick was put back on its feet by SwissLimbs with a new leg and a high performing All-Terrain knee which is especially designed for active people who need to be mobile in rough terrains.