



MISSION REPORT – UGANDA

Gulu, 19-23 August 2019

- ✓ **TRAINED 15 Orthopedic Technicians and 2 Shoemakers (+ 3 Auditors)**
- ✓ **RESTORED mobility to 4 patients (3 legs, 1 Double KAFO)**

SwissLimbs is very happy with the outcome of their fourth of a series of technical enhancement training missions on the field since 2016; a training of orthopedic technicians at national level, coming from different regions of Uganda.

Hosted by the Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop (GROW) at the Gulu Regional Referral Hospital and in partnership with AVSI Foundation Uganda, SwissLimbs involved and trained fifteen technicians, two shoemakers and three auditors from various regions of Uganda. They all have proved to be very collaborative and grateful!

SwissLimbs has partnered with AVSI in Uganda – Gulu since 2016 with rehabilitation training, service to patients and materials supplies.

AVSI Foundation decided to offer the training not only to their local technicians but also to other technicians operating in the four corners of Uganda, so that SwissLimbs' innovative technologies can spread and low-cost and affordable solutions can be brought to all.



During this mission, we particularly focused on cases that required complex technical interventions and we all came out satisfied.

The Master Trainer of this mission was Daniele Kläy, BUFA graduated and SwissLimbs Chief orthopaedic technologist. His vast experience ranges from providing prosthetic and orthotic solutions and training of orthopedic technicians in service. He is committed to SwissLimbs by providing technical expertise and solving the most challenging rehabilitation cases.

The 7-day training carried out by Daniele has, first of all, envisaged a refresher of the theory regarding the alignment of the tibial prostheses. Then an introduction was made to the *Monolimb method* for those who did not yet know it, and a repetition for those already familiar.

Then we moved on to the practice, for the prosthetic limbs we realized a classic Monolimb and a modular leg with thermomoulded socket and modular components.



making the softliner



work in progress



training session



preparing the mould



hermomoulding



Daniele showing the making of the monolimb

The instruction then continued with a refresher and a demonstration on the equipment on transfemoral amputations with the ischial containment technique, and again the modular construction. All the technicians carefully followed, accompanied and helped in the process.



While training, we fitted a total number of 4 beneficiaries; 1 Monolimb: (transtibial below knee), 1 Modular (below knee), 1 Femoral with a SLI knee and a Double KAFO (Knee Ankle Foot Orthosis).



Filippo with 2 trainees and an almost finished Monolimb



Geoffrey Abongo at work

In our previous missions, the training focused on prostheses. As the orthotic needs are also very high, the request for specialized orthotic training was satisfied with lessons and practice in the production of custom made KAFO (Knee-Ankle-Foot-Orthosis). The technicians were taught how to build thermo-formed orthoses with ankle joints and the various orthotic components.

The new know-how was well received, the demonstrations were successful and the way Daniele demonstrated.

Jenifer Adokrach, a polio patient, was very happy to receive a pair of femoral orthoses custom made for her, that is with knee and ankle joint.

Production of a custom made KAFO



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



Amodoi Raphael,
from Lira



Ssevume Kauma
Abbey, from Gulu



Kisambira James,
from Kampala



Omara Kennedy
Sylvester, from
Lira



Mindra Augustine,
from Gulu



Okeny Andrew
Obita, from Gulu



Ochieng Dan,
from Gulu



Abiriga Simon,
from Hoima



Abongo
Geoffrey, from
Gulu



Obala Henry Bob,
from Gulu



Kalanzi
Emmanuel, from
Gulu



Twongeirwe
Benjamine, from
Kumi



Kakade Francis,
from Kampala



Taremwa
Samuel from
Gulu



Mubiro Nelson, from
Kampala



Kiiza Nicholas
Ben, from Gulu



Aisha Nasereka,
from Hoima



Bigirwa
Emmanuel, from
Kampala



Akiteng Rachael,
from Kampala



Marsi Fred,
from Arua



Disan Kirabira,
from Arua

At the end of the training we gave each of the technicians a set of materials to produce a Monolimb for their waiting patients, back home. In addition to that, each represented center was given access to a database template to record their patients and keep track of them.



moments of the issuance of certificates to trainees

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A big Thanks goes to Rachael Akiteng from AVSI Communication who was responsible to the "press coverage": the interviews, the photos, etc. While Joyce Laker, AVSI Gulu/GROW Program Manager took care of the organization of the whole program together with Emmanuel Kalanzi, our "Ambassador for Africa" and Patrick Omwony, who was in charge of the database and also followed the registration of the new patients.

Thank you!

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

*It has been another satisfying mission
in Uganda!*



BENEFICIARIES AND TESTIMONIALS



Hasn Ssempija, 58

(Below knee right amputee – Monolimb: new technology)

“I have used this limb (old limb since 2006) for a long time and at times it caused me pain. The foot is worn out. I had to travel 400Km to receive medical assistance.”

Hasn likes his new leg which he believes will help him farm his lands like any other man would. Residing 400Km from Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop, in Uganda’s central district of Mpigi, he was caught in a rebel ambush and lost his right leg. Hasn is happy that he had a chance to live and that his efforts can still sustain his five children.



Richard Komakech, 36, Councilor; Pader District; Northern Uganda

(Right above knee amputee RAK prosthesis with a knee joint)

Richard is a councilor representing Persons with Disability in Pader District Local Government of northern Uganda.

It was one bright morning when he went about his usual family activities – “we all went to the garden together to crop when I stepped on an object and the next, I heard was a loud sound and I saw my leg hang from my body.”

The middle-aged father of six was rushed to hospital where the doctor told him ... “to save your life, we will need to amputate your leg” “I felt frustrated and thought I would never walk again”, he said.

The psychosocial sessions helped Richard recover from trauma and live a hopeful life. He loves his artificial limb which he has used for ten years. He is excited to use the new technology which brings certainty that he will be able to walk longer distances as he goes about his duties to meet persons with disabilities in the villages and also have fun with family and friends. He asserts that in his village people find it hard to believe that he is disabled.

Richard’s new hope began in 2006 when a certain group of people visited his home to listen to his story. Two months later, he was called to Gulu Regional Orthopedic Workshop where he was fitted with his first artificial limb.

Thanks to the Swiss Limbs technology, Richard and 400 other amputees can now access the lighter, faster to make and easier to use limb provided to victims of war at the orthopedic workshop in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital.





Francis Openy, 60, farmer

(Below knee right amputee – a modular prosthesis new and old technology)

Francis was sure that staying close to his home at a time when war raged his village was safe, but alas, he was shot at on his right leg as he took his cows and goats to graze.

The passionate farmer's dream of a source of livelihood was shattered – he knew he would no longer have an income to support his wife and six daughters.

In 2005 Francis Openy received his first artificial limb; two years later, he was back at the orthopedic workshop for a new limb because the other was damaged. Francis has had four of his artificial limbs replaced due to breakage.

"I am excited to use this new limb and to return to looking after my animals."

However, Francis' wife left him due to the burden of taking care of his disability. He is hopeful that he will now pick himself up and live a meaningful life.



Jenifer Adokrach

Had both legs-knee ankle-foot orthosis (KAFO)

This beneficiary stills very shy and is not yet ready for an interview.