

MISSION REPORT

MOZAMBIQUE

NOVEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 4, 2022



Swiss⁺ABILITY



THE MISSION

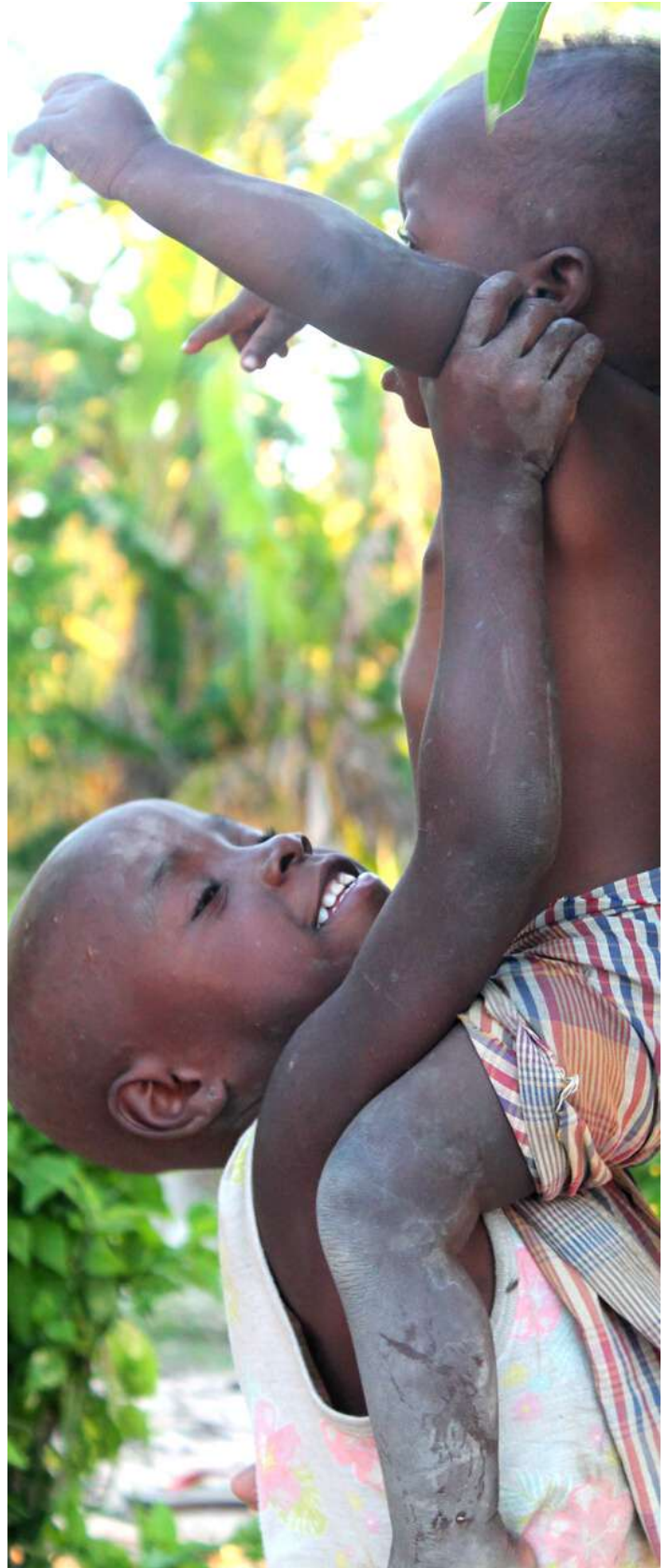
SwissABILITY's first mission was a true adventure. From 18th December to 4th December all 3 staff members explored various operating locations and facilitated 5 days of training.

During the 3 weeks they were in the country, the team made up of Roberto, Nicole and Alessandra visited 3 cities: The capital Maputo, Beira, a city in the central region and Pemba, in the north. The latter is one of the most impoverished cities of the nation as it is situated in a region under attack from terrorist incursions.

Meetings with various officials, tours to current and future projects, visits to beneficiaries, times spent listening and facilitating specialised training for orthopedic technicians all contributed to the success of the mission and the satisfaction of those who participated.

The SwissABILITY team returned from Mozambique with an even greater determination to continue the projects they have started as well as create new ones. To ensure a dignified future for the Mozambiquan population, the felt needs they identified need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

**Discover
SwissABILITY's
projects in
Mozambique!**



THE ORTHOPEDIC TRAINING

The last phase of the mission was a week of specialized training for orthopedic technicians at the Provincial Hospital in the city of Pemba. This location was specifically chosen due to the increasing challenge it faces from the constant influx of internally displaced people fleeing from the civil war being waged further north. Six technicians attended the orthopedic training which had a focus on innovative technologies in prosthetic rehabilitation.

Henrique Matsinhe, who oversees the orthopedic workshop at the Dom Orione Institute in Maputo, lead the group of specialist trainers, also from Maputo. At the end of the week all the trainees were presented with a certificate of participation.

15 amputees benefited from having their mobility restored as the trainees applied their newly acquired skills in practical ways on their behalf. Simultaneously, nine new wheelchairs were assembled, a combined donation from the Dom Orione Institute and an Australian charity, Wheelchairs For Kids.





PARTICIPATING TECHNICIANS



Henrique Matsinhe

Head trainer and orthopedic technician at Obra Dom Orione, Maputo



Endro Cossa

Trainer and orthopedic technician at Hospital Central de Maputo



Isabel Campos

Trainer and orthopedic technician



Clemente Zandamela

Orthopedic technician at Hospital Provincial de Pemba



Calton Orlando Sitole

Orthopedic technician at Hospital Central de Maputo



Yoshua Beltrão

Orthopedic technician at Hospital Provincial de Pemba



Felisberto Tovela

Orthopedic technician at Hospital Provincial de Pemba



Francisco Conjo

Orthopedic technician at Hospital Provincial de Pemba



Armando Mauaie

Orthopedic technician assistant at Hospital Provincial de Pemba

BENEFICIARIES



Alcinda Rodolfo

56 years old, transtibial amputee



Alima Saide

33 years old, transtibial amputee



Ayuba Amade

18 years old, transtibial amputee



Antunes Nafuche

53 years old, transtibial amputee



Idriss Nacir Java

42 years old, transfemoral amputee



Chafim Agira Dambiro

44 years old, transradial amputee



Juma Ananias

29 years old, transtibial amputee



Magido Paulino

34 years old, transtibial amputee
(his prosthesis is in production)



Magreth Francisco

51 years old, transtibial amputee



PAULO'S STORY

While working on a construction site in 2013, the tractor Paulo was driving overturned, trapping him beneath it, breaking his right leg. Although he wanted to be taken to the hospital, Paulo was persuaded to go to a traditional healer, as is the local custom. The lack of appropriate treatment caused a gangrene to set in below the knee.

Haven already lost all sensitivity to the bottom part of his leg, Paulo amputated it himself with a razor blade – then set out to the hospital to receive adequate treatment.

During the training, Paulo received a Monolimb, which is lighter and more comfortable and agile than the prosthesis he had previously.



Mário Saide

38 years old, transfemoral amputee



Maurício Lisboa

57 years old, transtibial amputee
(the prosthesis is in production)



Moussa Somar

30 years old, transfemoral amputee



Nathan Virgílio Imposto

8 years old, transtibial amputee



Paulo Pedro

43 years old, transtibial amputee



Salimu Saide

50 years old, transtibial amputee

ANTUNES' STORY

Antunes was a soldier in the Mozambican army during the civil war. While engaged in a conflict situation near Maputo in 1991, he accidentally stepped on a landmine, which tore off the lower part of his left leg.

Although he was immediately transported to a military hospital, there was no way to treat him, and the doctors performed a below knee amputation.

Since 1992, Antunes has meticulously maintained the only prosthesis he ever had – until now! His new Monolimb prosthesis is of great benefit to his mobility and peace of mind.



AYUBA'S STORY



Ayuba is 18 years old and lives in Impiri, a rural village near Pemba where he works with his large family on their farm. Forced to leave school at the end of primary school he only speaks his tribal language, Shanga. He would have learned the national language, Portuguese, in high school. In 2012, when Ayuba was only 10 years old, he was bitten by a snake on his leg while playing in a field with some friends. Ayuba's family took him to a countryside hospital, but they didn't have the means to treat him properly. They then transferred him to Pemba Provincial Hospital, but in the 3 days that had passed since the accident, his wound had become gangrenous. It was determined that his leg be amputated below the knee. A lack of family finances means that he had never been fitted with a prosthetic until becoming a patient of this mission. In November 2022 he received a modular prosthesis which he learned to use with surprising ease.

VISITS TO THE PROJECTS

From 23 - 27 November, the SwissABILITY team travelled to Beira to visit partners, locations and future beneficiaries of three projects that will start in 2023. Oliveira Mocuna, president of the OLAPA association and SwissABILITY's local partner, accompanied them during the visits, introducing them to the beneficiaries and helping them understand the wholistic context in which the projects will be launched.

WELCOME HOMES

During 2023, SwissABILITY will provide homes to 20 families who are without a roof over their head either due to poverty or the natural disasters that destroyed their homes.

The beneficiaries of the houses will be chosen principally from among the victims of the broad and destructive cyclone Idai and tropical storm Chalane which hit in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Both incidents left hundreds of people homeless, in precarious housing or absorbed into overcrowded buildings by relatives.

During the team's stay in the Beira district, they were able to meet 11 of the 20 families who will benefit from the new houses. All of them currently live in huts made of wood, stones and clay, many of them practise subsistence farming and none of the families have electricity or running water in their homes. Not all of their children are able to attend school and those who do are often forced to walk many kilometres to reach it. Among the families they met, Francisca Domingo Tomàs (photo on the right), lives with her five children, after being abandoned by her husband. Since 2019, she has been living in a resettlement camp in Mútua that hosts victims of Cyclone Idai.



EMERGENCY AID



Despite improved growth rates recorded in recent years, Mozambique remains one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. The situation is aggravated by the repetition of natural disasters and continuous armed attacks attributable to jihadist militias that began in 2017. The escalation of violence and the flight of people, aggravated by extreme weather events, have led to an increase in the need for protection – physical, material, and legal – for hundreds of thousands of refugees, internally displaced persons and members of host communities. SwissABILITY wants to guarantee assistance to needy families by supplying them with either emergency food aid, agriculture kits or the donation of motorbikes, bicycles or farm animals.

A CARPENTRY FOR THE STUDENTS OF INHAMIZUA

Charles Tinday is a boy from Beira, who received a house as a donation for himself and his family in 2020. Tinday guarantees a livelihood for his wife and children as a carpenter. During 2023 SwissABILITY and the local partner OLAPA will build a social carpentry in Ceramica, Beira district, with three objectives: to professionally train other carpenters, to build doors and windows for new homes and to serve the needs of the community. Tinday will work in the new carpentry as a trainer for future students of the craft.



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PEDRO LOURENÇO



Pedro is a 24 years old medical student. Haven been abandoned by his parents at a young age, his is a story of suffering amid constant commitment. He grew up in the orphanage of the "Ré-Om" school, directed by Oliveira Mocuna. After secondary school, Pedro dreamed big: he wanted to become a doctor. After a stint working as a policeman, he became the recipient of a scholarship that allowed him to undertake medical studies in his own country.



Pedro also benefited from a donated house and a motorcycle to go to university. In early 2022, he married Alice, a young nurse, and later in the year became the father of Emily, a beautiful little girl who fills his heart with pride and joy. Oliveira, who welcomed Pedro like a son twenty years earlier, also now feels like a grandfather to little Emily and continues to support Pedro as a young father and medical student.



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OPEN DOORS FOR SWISSABILITY

SWISSABILITY MEETS THE DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL IN MAPUTO

On November 21, the SwissABILITY team met with the General Director of the Hospital Central de Maputo (HCM), Dr. Mozhino Saidé, and the Director of the HCM Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Dr. Teresa Tiago. Their discussions underlined the critical need to significantly improve orthopedic services, both at the HCM and in the whole country, since the number of disabled patients is increasing sharply, while amount of services available to them, remains stagnant. For this reason, they wish to collaborate with SwissABILITY, both to provide strategic training and for the import of orthopedic machinery and materials.



MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE OF SOFALA

The Governor of the province of Sofala - Lourenço Ferreira Bulha - received the SwissABILITY team in his offices during their visit to Beira. It was an honor and a pleasure for them to deal with a man of his personal and professional stature. SwissABILITY is already active with OLAPA, a local partner in projects related to infrastructure and self-sufficiency, which are both pressing issues in the province. The Governor confirmed that the regional government wants to promote projects aimed at solving the problems in their local communities, both in terms of infrastructure and health and so are eager to collaborate with SwissABILITY in the creation of new projects.

VISIT TO THE OPHTHALMOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN BEIRA

This mission was an opportunity for SwissABILITY to visit health sectors other than orthopedics, such as the Beira Department of Ophthalmology. Its Director, Dr. Abel Polaze, showed them the department, a vanguard for Mozambique, which illuminated the country's needs in this area. If the Beira ophthalmological center - subsidized by the NGO Light for the World - is a bridgehead in the sector, the rest of the country still greatly suffers from the lack of services. Dr. Polaze is very eager to form future collaborations for the most remote areas of the Sofala Province a vision also shared by SwissABILITY.



SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CABO DELGADO AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL OF PEMBA

SwissABILITY also enjoyed the support of the Provincial Government of Cabo Delgado. The delegate of the Provincial Service for Social Affairs - Mariana ... - took part in the first day of training, inaugurating it with an introductory speech. The provincial medical director, Dr. Edson Fernando - also attended both the first and the last day of training making it possible for him to admire the final results. Both said they were focused on supporting people with disabilities and expressed their willingness to collaborate with SwissABILITY. The same goes for the Management of the Pemba Hospital: Dr. António Saide de Carvalho who supported the training and hoped that more could be organized in the future.

DECEMBER 3: A DAY DEDICATED TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



3rd December is recognized as the International Day of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was established by the UN in 1992 to make people aware of the issue of diversity and its value, and of the rights of every human being, regardless of their physical, mental or social condition.

The SwissABILITY team commemorated this day in Pemba, where the Provincial Service of Social Affairs, in collaboration with other NGOs and agencies such as AIFO, Light For The World, UNHCR and FAMOD, organized an event aimed at all those suffering from disabilities. A day full of hopes and dreams, a day in which all the people with disabilities should not experience the social stigma that often accompanies them and which gives us hope that a different future is and should be possible.

This day was also an opportunity for SwissABILITY to present itself as a new association operating on the ground in the field of disabilities and to illustrate what was done during the week of training at the orthopedic center of Pemba, delivering the prostheses to various beneficiaries of the training, who paraded proudly in front of a large audience. The team also distributed 20 postural wheelchairs donated by Wheelchairs For Kids to the Dom Orione institute.

But that is not all! Given the plight of many people with disabilities in the public, Executive Director Roberto Agosta made them a promise: none of them should be left behind. In front of all the guests and organizers of the International Day of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Pemba, SwissABILITY officially pledged to help as many people as possible with its projects and restore the mobility of beneficiaries with physical disabilities.

OUR MISSION TEAM



ROBERTO AGOSTA

Executive Director



NICOLE ROSSI

Regional Director



ALESSANDRA ARIES

Program Manager

