

MISSION REPORT

MOZAMBIQUE

5-9 JUNE 2023



Swiss⁺ABILITY

JOSELINA'S FIRST STEPS

As the youngest beneficiary in the history of SwissABILITY, Joselina became the mascot of this mission to Mozambique. Like any other one-year old, she wants to walk!

This exciting mission consolidated the presence of SwissABILITY in the country by training nine more professionals. In the process we donated 12 new prostheses (and one in preparation) and distributed five wheelchairs.

SwissABILITY's has a long-term commitment to Mozambique, a country high in rehabilitation needs but low in technical resources. Continuing to build on a previous mission to Pemba in December 2022, we facilitated further training for orthopedic professionals in Nampula in June 2023.

Our objective? To train orthopedic technicians from two other strategic cities of the northern region; Nampula and Lichinga so that they might further impact other parts of the region.

Most orthopedic centres in the northern provinces lack basic materials to manufacture prostheses, making it difficult to offer rehabilitation services for those with disabilities.

The majority of amputations are a result of armed conflict, congenital diseases as well as road and work-related accidents. 12 people were able to benefit from either above or below knee prosthetics while SwissABILITY showcased and trained technicians in their innovative prostheses technology, the Monolimb. Even young Joselina was able to walk immediately after being fitted with our shortest Monolimb ever produced.

The dozen prostheses manufactured during the mission were the first of many that will be manufactured in Northern Mozambique as the technicians have made commitments to incorporate the Monolimb technology in their workshops.



Little Joselina proudly wears her first prosthesis.

KIDS GET A SET OF WHEELS

Alongside their training in our innovative and low-cost prosthetic technology, the orthopedic technicians also learned how to assemble paediatric wheelchairs that were donated to the Obra Dom Orione Institute by the Australian non-profit organization "Wheelchairs for kids". Once the wheelchairs were assembled, the technicians were taught how to best accommodate each child (who have physical and cerebral disabilities) so that they can sit comfortably while maintaining a correct posture.



During the training week, SwissABILITY delivered five wheelchairs, and thanks to the partnership with Humanity & Inclusion (formerly Handicap International) it was possible to distribute another 20 wheelchairs in the following days. The beneficiaries of the wheelchairs are children from Nampula as well as the more isolated provinces, some of who's families had to leave their homes due to the ongoing conflict in the more northern parts of the country.

Amongst other projects we have in Mozambique, SwissABILITY is committed to a continued training program to orthopedic clinics and technicians with the aim of improving the country's rehabilitation service. During this mission to Nampula, the team established key relationships with both senior management in the Central Hospital as well as the heads of rehabilitation from Humanity & Inclusion. These partnerships are key for the expansion of our critical work in the nation.



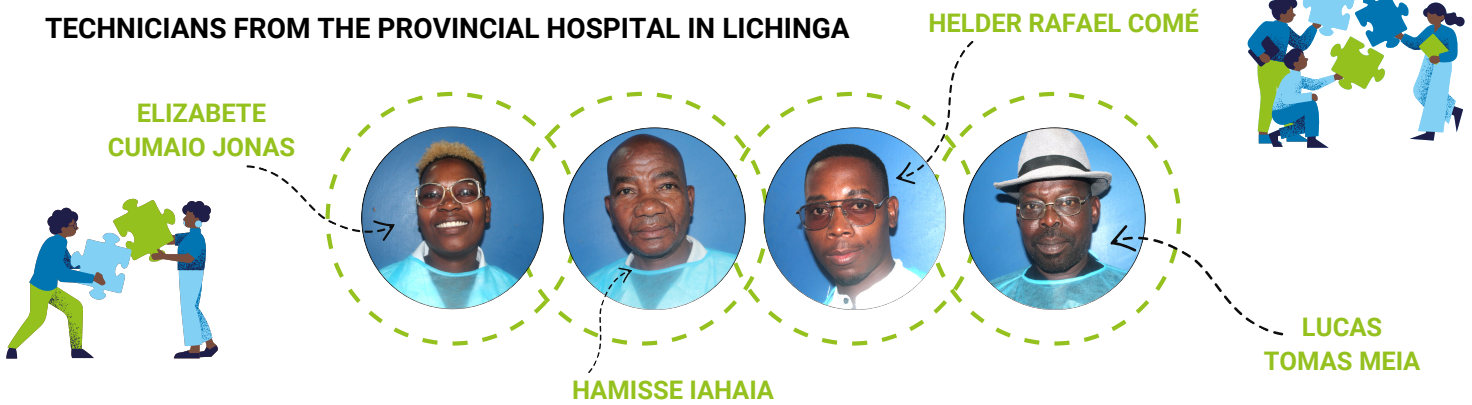


UNITED, WE GROW STRONGER

TECHNICIANS FROM THE CENTRAL HOSPITAL IN NAMPULA



TECHNICIANS FROM THE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN LICHINGA



I am grateful to SwissABILITY for giving people with disabilities the opportunity to have a dignified life and resume their work. We welcome these initiatives and I hope there will be many more in the future.



HENRIQUE MATSINHE

Orthopedic technician at 'Obra Dom Orione' in Maputo and senior trainer on this mission.



ISABEL CAMPOS

Orthopedic technician at 'Obra Dom Orione' in Maputo and trainer on this mission.



It was nice to be able to share the new SwissABILITY technologies with other technicians from Mozambique and enjoy a fruitful exchange with them.

NEW LEG, NEW HOPE, NEW SMILES

DJINDJIN

13 years old, transtibial amputee due to a car accident



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

MAUFI

60 years old, transtibial amputee caused by a landmine during the war



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

CANDIDA

34 years old, transtibial amputee because a badly treated wound turned gangrenous



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



ANTONIO'S TALE

During Mozambique's civil war, 20-year-old Antonio was shot in the right knee. In the hospital he was treated at, he was told that the bullet had been successfully removed. Ten years later (1994) Antonio's wound began hurting again. A lot! Returning to the hospital, he discovered that the bullet had never been extracted. In the meantime, an untreatable infection had set in, and the doctors were left with no option but to amputate his leg above the knee.

His previous prosthesis was not very comfortable but Antonio, now 59 years-old, looks forward to an improved mobility that will allow him to continue his work at his local town hall and enjoy caring for his many grandchildren with greater ease.



MODULAR PROSTHESIS



SABADO

is a policeman who was shot in the line of duty. He is 35 years old and a transtibial amputee



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

FAUSTINO

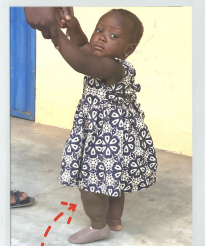
22 years old, transfemoral amputee due to a car accident



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

JOSELINA

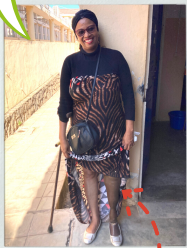
1 year old, affected by congenital amelia



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

JUSTINA

44 years old, transtibial amputee due to a car accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ANTONIO

32 years old, transfemoral amputee due to a car accident



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

RACHEL

5 years old, transtibial amputated due to a congenital disease



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



ANA MARIA'S STORY



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

Ana Maria is 43 years old and lost her leg in 1989 when she was just nine years old. Along with her parents and two brothers, Ana Maria was fleeing the civil war in a bus from the city of Nampula. She was the only one in her family to survive when the convoy they were in was attacked by rebels. Many others perished but other survivors of the massacre found her where she lay and took her to the hospital. The overstrained medical facility made the choice to amputate her seriously wounded leg.

The dramas that Ana Maria has faced in life has not dampened her sense of humour, nor diminished her smile. Her previous prosthesis caused her chronic pain and her hope is that this one will be the beginning of a pain free mobility that will encourage her infectious laughter all the more.



MARIAMO

53 years old, transhumeral amputee following a road accident (prosthesis in production)



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

JULIETA'S JOURNEY

Julieta is 53 years old and lost her leg in 1994 during the civil war. Along with others, she had taken cover in a school building. A convoy of rebels passed by and threw numerous hand grenades at the building. Nobody died in the attack, but many were injured, including Julieta. Her leg had been torn apart and after several hours, she was taken to the hospital, where what remained of her leg was sewn into a stump.

Julieta is a proud and determined lady who does not easily let the adversities of life get her down. She hopes that her new prosthesis will allow her to do everything that her old, heavy, and worn-out one didn't.





HEARTFELT THANKS

to all the donors and supporters who support our other projects in Mozambique
and those whose generosity made this mission possible.