

MISSION REPORT

GHANA

3-7 JULY 2023



Swiss⁺ABILITY

LEARNING TO WALK... AND RUN LIKE THE WIND

For the first time in its history, SwissABILITY travelled to Ghana for a mission involving 23 orthopedic technicians and 10 amputee patients. Patients like Kelvin, whose prosthesis started a new chapter in his life including many daily changes, like running with his friends and smiling again.

In July 2023, SwissABILITY organized the first phase of a 3-year training cycle to the Orthopedic Training Centre (OTC) of Nsawam on the outskirts of the capital, Accra. In addition to this, SwissABILITY will also equip a partnering orthopedic centre with machineries and materials in Walewale located in the north of the country.

During the mission, our senior trainer Nelson Mubiru trained 23 orthopedic technicians, from OTC as well as other orthopedic centres in Ghana and Benin. Although this group was one of the largest we have facilitated thus far, Mr Mubiru found the attending technicians to be competent and eager to learn, making them 'the best group he has trained so far'.

During the training, the technicians applied their newly acquired skills to produce 10 prostheses which were donated to the patients. Most of these patients lost their limbs due to osteomyelitis, a condition where a part of a bone is removed after it has been infected via the bloodstream by bacteria or germs, often because of insufficient hygiene standards. Many of the patients came to the training from Walewale, where OTC is constructing the orthopedic centre that SwissABILITY will later equip as part of our 3 year project in the nation.

The innovative technologies we taught during the week will be an invaluable treasure for the future of amputees in Ghana.



Kelvin, 9 years old, did nothing but run once he put on his new Monolimb.

PROSTHESES AND... WORLD PLAYERS

Thanks to our senior trainer, Nelson Mubiru's personal connections, the SwissABILITY team had the opportunity to meet the President and the General Manager of the National Amputee Football Association of Ghana. Nelson comes from Uganda but when they heard he was at OTC they came to meet the team and to introduce us their project.

SwissABILITY has previously been in contact with the National Amputee Football Team's of Sierra Leone and Uganda.



As a result of our meeting with these men, we were invited to watch their team play a match in Accra on 9th July. It was incredible to see the determination and tenacity of the players, who will compete in the African Cup of Nations for Amputees in Egypt in the autumn.

It was especially exciting for the SwissABILITY's 18 year-old volunteer, Matteo Desthieux, to be invited to join the team on the condition that he too would use crutches and only one leg during the game.





THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE, TOGETHER

GIDEON AWUAH WIREDU

St. Joseph Hospital,
Koforidua, Ghana

AMERINDA ADEI KOTey

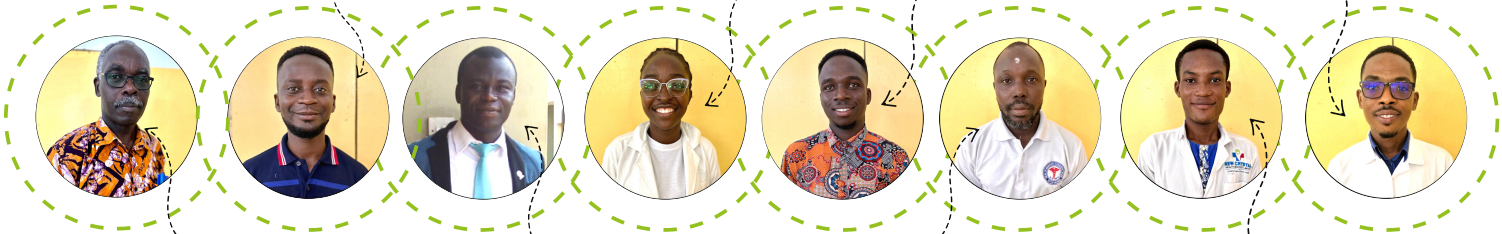
Comprehensive Rehabilitation
services, Accra, Ghana

AUGUSTINE GYAMFI

Presbyterian Hospital,
Dormaa Ahenkro, Ghana

FRANCIS ETSEY DUSHIE

Br. Tarcisus Prosthetics & Orthotics
Training College, Nsawam, Ghana



**RAPHAEL AMUZU
DZAMESHIE**

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

JOSEPH THOMPSON

Comprehensive Rehabilitation
services, Accra, Ghana

RENAULD TOCLOMETI

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

MICHAEL ODAME WIAFE

Br. Tarcisus Prosthetics & Orthotics
Training College, Nsawam, Ghana

DANIEL SARKWAH

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

THOMAS AMPOFO

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

RICHARD KYEI BAFFOUR

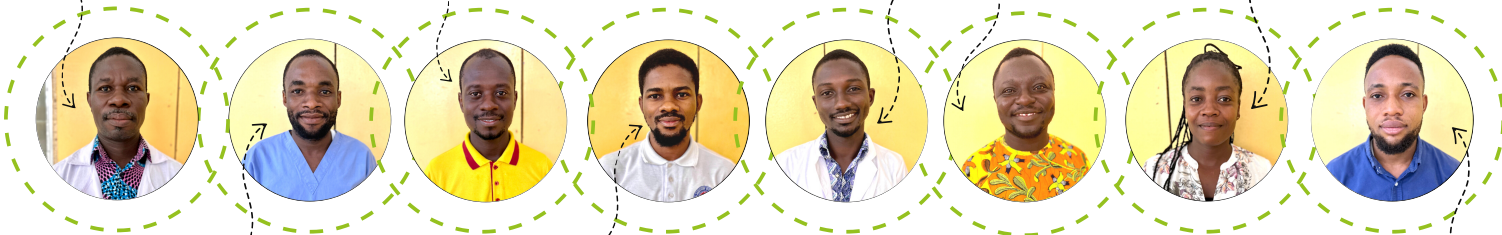
OTC Nsawam, Ghana

ANTHONY OSEI

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

DEBORAH MANA AZIEDU

OTC Nsawam, Ghana



MESHACH NDEMBE TANAM

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

COURAGE PETER TAWIAH

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

PAUL WORLAKO AIDAM

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

DENNIS ADONTENG KONADU

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

FRANKLIN ADU TIBU

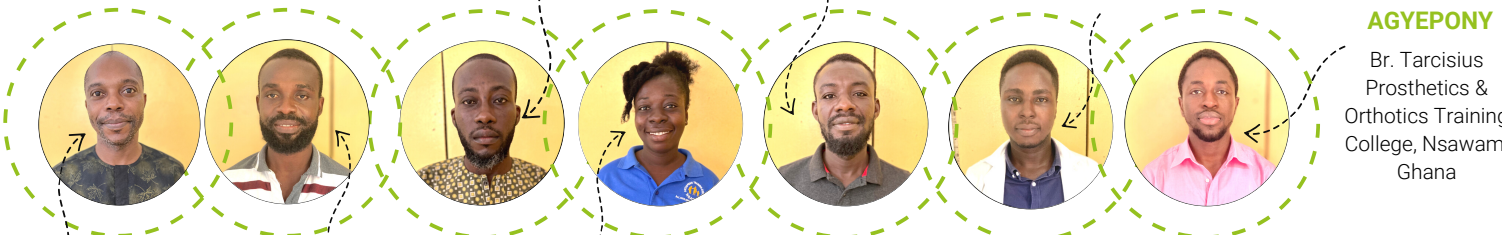
OTC Nsawam, Ghana

BISMARK OSEI FRIMPONG

Br. Tarcisus Prosthetics & Orthotics
Training College, Nsawam, Ghana

**EUGENE OPARE
AGYEYONY**

Br. Tarcisus
Prosthetics &
Orthotics Training
College, Nsawam,
Ghana



**SERGE KINTCHÉSSOU
ALLADAGBE**

A2D Prosthetics, Parakou,
Benin

FELIX AHORSU

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

ABIGAIL BONSU

OTC Nsawam, Ghana

NELSON MUBIRU

Orthopedic technician of
CoRSU, in Uganda, and
senior trainer



In Ghana I found the best group of technicians I have ever trained. Attentive, precise and extremely interested in the low-cost technologies that we presented.

A STEP TOWARDS THE FUTURE

HENRY

19 years old, transtibial amputee due to a congenital disease



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

SAFIA

32 years old, transtibial amputee due to osteomyelitis



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

RUHANATU

15 years old, transtibial amputee due to osteomyelitis



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

MARTIN'S STORY

When Martin was 5 years old, their family home caught fire. Both his parents died in the incident, while his leg was badly burned. His brother took him to Nsawam OTC for treatment. As a result Martin grew up in the centre and learned to become an orthopedic technician, a profession he still practices today. Throughout this time however, he developed osteomyelitis and in 2013 his burned leg had to be amputated. Nonetheless, Martin continues to work and carry out his craft with passion. Like the proverbial phoenix, Martin has resurrected himself and continues to fly despite the fire he has been through.



HARUNA

55 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

YAW

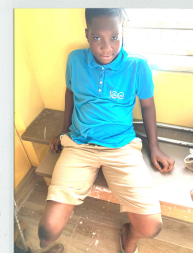
46 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

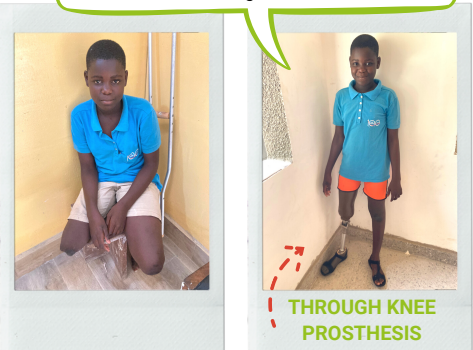
NANAYAW

12 years old, transtibial amputee due to a genetic condition




MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

MONICA
12 years old, through knee amputation due to a congenital disease




THROUGH KNEE PROSTHESIS

AYUBA
47 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

KELVIN
9 years old, transtibial amputee due to osteomyelitis



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

OUR MISSION TEAM



ROBERTO AGOSTA
Executive Director



NELSON MUBIRU
Orthopedic technician and senior trainer - Manager at CoRSU in Kisubi, Uganda



NICOLE ROSSI
Regional Director



MATTEO DESTHIEUX
Volunteer

HEARTFELT THANKS

to all donors and supporters who made
this mission possible and who support our work in Ghana