

MISSION REPORT

THE GAMBIA

7-11 AUGUST 2023



Swiss⁺ABILITY

INTERREGIONAL TRAINING IN WEST AFRICA

In partnership with the British NGO Legs4Africa, we undertook a training mission at the Banjul Mobility Centre in The Gambia, which gathered 21 rehabilitation professionals from three nations. As part of the training process, we donated legs to 15 amputees, some of whom are employees of the orthopedic centre in Banjul. One such person is Oumie, an orthopedic technical assistant, who can now look to the future with renewed enthusiasm.

This training is part of our project in Senegal*, where we are building an orthopedic centre in Ziguinchor. As the centre is still under construction, we were hosted by the Banjul workshop, which our partner Legs4Africa has been supporting for a decade. The mission originally invited technicians from Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Guinea-Bissau, in order to create a network of professionals in West Africa. Unfortunately, due to political strife in the Casamance region, where the new centre is under construction, only two technicians from outside The Gambia were able to make the journey to attend the training. One was from Senegal, the other from Sierra Leone. It is by good chance that this training mission was scheduled to be held in Banjul earlier this year.

In total, 21 professionals, including orthopedic technicians, physiotherapists, wheelchairs technicians and operational staff of legs4Africa attended the event. During the process we donated 15 prostheses, including Monolimb, modular and transfemoral prostheses; while two more are presently under construction for a bilateral amputee patient. It was a first step in creating a network of know-how among technicians from all over West Africa. Each journey begins with a single step, this is one we will undertake together.



*Read the report "Mission in Senegal and The Gambia - February 2023"

Oumie proudly shows off her new leg with Abdulrahman, the orthopedic technician who manufactured it

CREATING A NETWORK WITH VALUABLE PARTNERS



The mission in The Gambia was made possible thanks to our partnership with Legs4Africa, who are well established and faithful to their motto: 'Get sub-Saharan Africa back on its feet'. Our partnership with them was further consolidated by their co-financing of this mission and hospitality at their centre.



The training was also an occasion to meet some government officials of The Gambia, represented by the Honorable Fatou Kinteh, the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, and Jankoba Jabbi, the Director of Social Welfare. Both participated in the opening ceremony of the training week and in the delivery of the certificates. The President and the Executive Director of SwissABILITY were also received at the ministry where together they were able to evaluate ideas and projects on how to support The Gambia in its rehabilitation sector, to improve the lives of the country's amputees. As a result, the government has promised to support Banjul with materials and a mobile clinic.



Each training mission is also an important opportunity to network with local partners, other non-profits, and orthopedic technicians from West Africa.

Despite challenges caused by political strife, we still managed to carry out an interregional training mission, and cement our commitment to strengthen the rehabilitation sector in the years ahead.

The sharing of ideas and experience remains a cornerstone of our work in the Project countries where we are active.



SHARING EXPERIENCES, GROWING TOGETHER



BERNARDO GOMES

Orthopedic technician and senior trainer

"Participating in this mission was a great experience and gave me the opportunity to train 21 orthopedic professionals to serve ever more patients in West Africa."

ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIANS

EBRIMA KRUBALLY

Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia

ABDULRAHMAN DUMBUYA

NRC - National Rehabilitation Centre, Sierra Leone

OUMIE JALLOW

Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia

HAWA BALDEH

Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia



GABU JARJUE

Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia

MORROW FOFANA

Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia

DENNEBA N'DIAYE

Provincial Orthopedic Centre of Ziguinchor, Senegal

ADAMA BAH

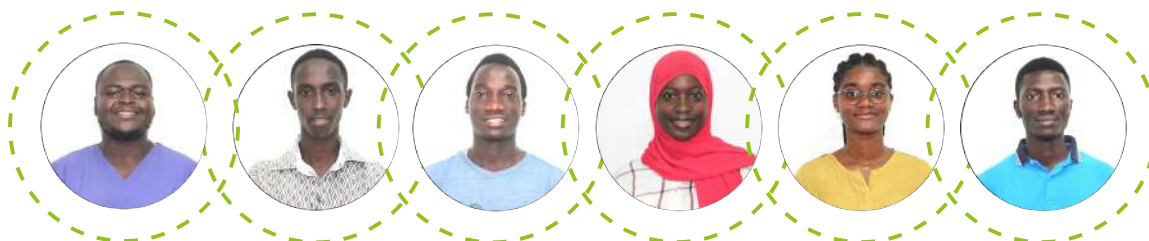
Banjul Mobility Centre, The Gambia

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

ISMAILA BAH

NDEY ASTOU NJIE

MUSTAPHA SAIDYKHAN



ELIMAN CHAM

SAMBA JALLOW

RHEME CHINAZAEPERE Egonu

WHEELCHAIRS TECHNICIANS

LEGS4AFRICA STAFF

MOMODOU SAVAGE

EBRIMA BOYANG

ALIEU TOURAY

EBRIMA JALLOW



ASSAN C-BOY SINYANG

BOB BUBACARR JABBIE

ELIZABETH SARIAN

SIXTEEN SATISFIED PATIENTS

HAWA

53 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ALIEU

60 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ROPEY

65 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



LAMIN'S STORY



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

Lamin is 19 years old and dreams of becoming a doctor. He wants to help people in need, as other doctors helped him early in 2023, when he broke his leg playing football with friends.

The hospital was far away and so his friends decided to take him to a traditional healer, who applied a herbal compress to his fracture. After the compress was removed 15 days later, the leg was in such bad condition, that the hospital was left with no choice but to amputate it.

The prosthesis he received during the training is his first artificial leg. Nevertheless, as soon as he put it on, without hesitation Lamin started walking and running like the sporty guy he always was.



LAMIN J.

35 years old, transtibial amputee due to an inadequately treated fracture



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

FATOU B.

44 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ISMAELI

52 years old, transfemoral amputee due to cardiovascular problems



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

SALLY

47 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ARAMATA

48 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

PA

59 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

OUMIE

24 years old, through knee amputation due to a road accident



"THROUGH KNEE" PROSTHESIS

HADDY

66 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

AUNTY

59 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

FATOU S.

53 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

FOUDY

64 years old, transtibial bilateral amputee due to diabetes (prosthesis in production)





EBRIMA'S STORY



Ebrima is 20 years old and is a highly efficient care giver for amputee patients with Legs4Africa. As an amputee himself, he better understands his patients needs. In 2006, at the age of 3, he was hit by a car and lost the mobility of his left leg, which no operation could restore. In the hope that he would get better care elsewhere, in 2013 his uncle took him to Germany, but it was too late. His leg had to be amputated. Since then, Ebrima has tried his utmost to make the best of his situation.

He remained in Germany for three years, where he played soccer with other amputees. Upon his return to The Gambia, he founded the National Amputee Football Association, in which he is also plays. Ebrima is also the country's first blade runner. Ebrima is a man with a thousand ideas and wants all amputees in The Gambia to reach their fullest potential.



OUR MISSION TEAM

TOMISLAV MATIEVIĆ

President



"The Gambia mission was my first time on the ground with SwissABILITY. What touched my heart the most were the laughter and smiles of the patients who received a prosthesis. For us it is such a small gift, while for them, being able to walk independently again is a priceless treasure. During these days, I have often cried tears of joy but also of gratitude. Seeing everything with your own eyes allows you to experience these emotions firsthand."



ROBERTO AGOSTA
Executive Director



BERNARDO GOMES
Orthopedic technician and senior trainer



NICOLE ROSSI
Regional Director

HEARTFELT THANKS

to all donors and supporters who made this mission possible and who support our work in Senegal and The Gambia