

MISSION REPORT

MOZAMBIQUE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 14, 2023



Albertina and her children, Ivo and Manuela, beneficiaries of a cyclone-resistant family home



Swiss⁺ABILITY

FROM MAPUTO TO BEIRA VIA QUELIMANE: SWISSABILITY IN MOZAMBIQUE!

Some statistics from SwissABILITY mission in Mozambique: 16 patients mobility renewed, 8 technicians trained, 20 houses built, 1 wheelchair friendly bus and 6 wheelchairs distributed.

In the final month of 2023, spanning from International Day of Persons with Disabilities into the holiday season, two of our SwissABILITY team members and a volunteer went on a mission to three cities in Mozambique. The generous donations and contributions of others facilitated to the success of all the milestones reached during this 2 week period.

Our mission began in Maputo, where we visited the Obra Dom Orione Institute, a facility that cares for children affected by severe spasticity, and other motor and cerebral disabilities, both as residential and day care patients. Often children with such conditions in Mozambique are considered cursed, so are abandoned by their families and rejected by society in general. The staff team of about 20 people have a daily struggle to perform all the tasks needed to care for these children. More personnel, improved infrastructure and equipment, as well as vehicles were needed to ensure the smooth functioning of the institute. Hence, we decided to respond to these needs through the "A Dream for Tomorrow" project (See details on our Website).

This visit was an ideal opportunity to officially hand over a wheelchair friendly van purchased thanks to the success of the above-mentioned fundraising project. Joaquim's smile upon boarding the new vehicle was the most beautiful thanks we could receive.



The van donated by SwissABILITY to the Obra Dom Orione Institute can transport two wheelchairs and seven passengers. Above left: During the official delivery at Dom Orione with Father Denis, Head of the Maputo Institute, and Father Tarcisio, International General Director of the Don Orione opera. Above right: Joaquim, happy to finally be able to leave the facility in complete safety and comfort.

THE MONOLIMB ARRIVES IN QUELIMANE!

Quelimane, is a city in central Mozambique. There the SwissABILITY team, along with trainers Henrique Matsinhe and Isabel Campos were welcomed and hosted by two of the city's medical centres, Hospital Central de Quelimane and Hospital Geral de Quelimane, to train 8 orthopedic technicians.

During the training week, we enjoyed working with enthusiastic technicians and apprentices, eager to learn a new prosthetic production technique. Their commitment yielded fantastic results: in just three days, they manufactured 10 Monolimb prostheses for eight patients!

In addition, the trainers were able to showcase other prostheses by restoring mobility to an amputee in need of a transfemoral prosthesis and a patient for whom a special prosthesis with hip disarticulation was skilfully constructed.



Ana (21 years old) and Ines (9 years old), both transtibial amputees with beautiful smiles. Read their testimonies below.



TWO HOSPITALS UNITE TO BRING... ABILITY!

TECHNICAL TRAINERS



HENRIQUE MATSINHE

Head orthopedic technician at Obra Dom Orione in Maputo

ISABEL CAMPOS

Orthopedic technician at Obra Dom Orione in Maputo



TRAINED TECHNICIANS

ROSÁRIO XAVIER

Hospital Geral de Quelimane



HORÁCIO SHATICE

Hospital Central de Quelimane



CAMARIGUIA AMERICANO

Hospital Geral de Quelimane



AGNESSE TOMOLA

Hospital Geral de Quelimane



BELITO ASPERANTE

Hospital Geral de Quelimane



LUÍZ CLÁUDIO CHAMBAL

Hospital Central de Quelimane



IRENE ALEXANDRE MASSANGO

Hospital Central de Quelimane



LÍLIA MATIAS

Hospital Central de Quelimane



12 LEGS FOR 10 PATIENTS!

FOSTER

23 years old, amputee with hip disarticulation due to a tumor



PROSTHESIS WITH HIP DISARTICULATION

ISMAEL

60 years old, transfemoral amputee due to gangrene



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

PILATOS

28 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

INES: AMPUTEE BUT LIKE ANY CHILD, LOVES TO PLAY



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

Ines is a joyful 9 year old who lives with her parents, two sisters and a brother in Quelimane. She is the youngest in the family.

At 21 months old, Ines was strapped to the back of her mother, who was on a bicycle when they were involved in a hit and run accident. Ines' leg was amputated that same day.

Despite her disability enjoys her childhood, going to school and playing with other children. SwissABILITY has gifted her with her first prosthesis, and she couldn't be happier.

MOMAD

50 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ABDUL

40 years old, transtibial amputee due to a domestic accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

ROBSON

36 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

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ALMEIDA: FORMER CHILD SOLDIER REDISCOVERS THE JOY OF WALKING.

When Almeida was just 13 years old, he was forced to join the army, where he served for ten years. Shortly before being discharged at the end of the war, he stepped on a landmine, losing his leg instantly.

Upon returning home, he discovered that his entire family had died in the 10 years he had been gone. His parents and some of his siblings lost their lives in the conflict, while others succumbed to illness.

Almeida rebuild his life and is now happily married and has twin daughters, aged 13.

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ANA: BILATERALLY AMPUTATED WITH A RADIANT SMILE

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Ana is 21 years old and cannot recall the event where she lost her legs, but was told that a baby, one night she woke up in her parents' bed screaming in pain. They rushed her to the hospital, where both her legs and much of both hands were amputated.

She has two older and two younger brothers. Her mother passed away and she lives with her father, who has since remarried. Currently a high school student, Ana would like to contribute financially to support her father and family. Despite the challenges she faces due to her amputations, she dreams of studying physiotherapy.



Ana is a very alert and intelligent young woman. Thanks to SwissABILITY, she has received two Monolimb prostheses, allowing her to be independent and continue helping her family with household chores and supporting those around her in times of difficulty. In fact, in the few days we were together, we saw that no matter how many obstacles life presents, Ana will always find a way to help others.

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SMILES FROM THE HEARTS OF SIX CHILDREN

In addition to the trained technicians and patients who received new prostheses, six children with disabilities were given wheelchairs. These brand-new, 'Wheelchairs 4 Kids', donated by the association of the same name to the Obra Dom Orione Institute were given to children aged between 6 and 12, who had never been able to afford a wheelchair before. Seeing them and their parents satisfaction and relief gave great joy to the technicians who learned to assemble and adapt the wheelchairs during the training week.



MEETINGS, VISITS AND NEW PROJECTS...

The SwissABILITY team's last stop was the districts of Beira, in the Sofala Province. There we spent a week in meetings with local institutions and government leaders, visiting beneficiaries of ongoing projects, and holding discussions for the projects we will initiate in 2024.

Of late, the central region of Mozambique has been affected by increased flooding and cyclones that destroy homes and damage agricultural fields. These natural disasters have heightened the plights of hundreds of thousands of people, including many refugees and displaced families.



To assist such people, in partnership with OLAPA a locally based association, we committed to support 300 households in 2023 on four fronts: providing emergency food packages and agriculture kits, donating bicycles and motorbikes, as well as start-up heard of livestock.



Furthermore, during the year, we build and donated new homes to 20 vulnerable families in the province. Until then, all these families lived in makeshift huts made of wood, mud, and stones. Collaborating with the local authorities in Mozambique is crucial to the coordination of these projects.

Roberto and Oliveira (President of OLAPA) met with the Honorable Mr. Manuel Virade Chaparica, Mayor of Dondo, and the Honorable Mrs. Bernadete Cipriano Roque, Provincial Administrator of the Dondo District. Mrs. Roque is a highly empathetic woman who effectively uses her authority to address the issues of the poor population in her district.



Above left: Mr. Chaparica during the official ceremony where the house keys were handed to some of the beneficiaries.
Above right: Mrs. Roque with Roberto and Oliveira.

The visit concluded with very fruitful meetings with the board of OLAPA (below right) who all felt a sense of pride for the projects completed in 2023 and enthusiasm in planning for 2024. We are truly grateful for these projects, which benefit from the dedicated support of a Lugano based family foundation that deeply cares for the most vulnerable people in Africa.



OUR MISSION TEAM



ROBERTO AGOSTA
Executive Director



ALESSANDRA ARIES
Program Manager



MARNIE-JANE AGOSTA
Volunteer



HENRIQUE MATSINHE
Orthopedic technician and trainer



ISABEL CAMPOS
Orthopedic technician and trainer

THANK YOU SO MUCH

to all donors who have made this mission possible and support our projects in Mozambique