

MISSION REPORT

UGANDA

24 JUNE - 4 JULY 2024



Swiss⁺ABILITY

UNITED TO TRANSFORM UGANDA



**MAMBO BEFORE HIS
SWISSABILITY FITTING**



**FINALLY
HAPPY!**



**NEW HOPE BIDIBIDI REHABILITATION
CENTRE, YUMBE DISTRICT**

15

**PATIENTS RECEIVED A NEW
PROSTHESIS**

19

**TECHNICIANS TRAINED FROM
UGANDA, SOUTH SUDAN, AND
BURUNDI**



This training gathered people from across the nation with a specific goal: **to make physical rehabilitation accessible to an increasing number of people in Uganda.** A total of 19 technicians acquired or refined new techniques of manufacturing low-cost and innovative prostheses. They are now able to replicate these techniques in centres throughout Uganda as well as in Juba, South Sudan, and Bujumbura, Burundi.

We believe that investing in on-going training, that provide professionals with the appropriate skills to create solutions for people with disabilities in the vulnerable regions of Uganda, is essential. These unique opportunities deepen knowledge, hone skills, and create a nationwide network of contacts with fellow colleagues. Together, we are laying a reliable foundation for a solid and lasting rehabilitation sector, that not only provides people with disabilities an accessible healthcare centres but also a reliance on the services they need for a better future for themselves.





NELSON MUBIRU: PAYING IT FORWARD

Accompanying us on this mission was Nelson, a local orthopedic technician and trainer. He is 29 years old and runs Nkolo Orthopaedics Rehabilitation Services. This small centre, located in the city of Luweero, provides orthopedic and physiotherapy services to the entire district, assisting those who struggle to pay for their necessary rehabilitative services. His motivation to help others, comes from his own struggles in the past.

Nelson and his younger sister were raised by his mother after he lost his father. During his childhood, money was very tight, so when they were unable to pay his school fees, Nelson gravitated to spending time on the streets. One day, he met a man who worked for an organization that takes children off the streets and ensures them a future through education. Nelson did not hesitate to seize the opportunity, a decision that profoundly shaped his paths.

Once he had completed his compulsory education, he decided to become an orthopedic technician as a way to give back to the most vulnerable people and those with disabilities, the love and hope that had been given to him. After graduating, he worked in various orthopedic centres before opening his own facility.



Nelson's generosity does not stop here. He donates all his earnings from the centre to others. Currently, he pays the school fees of five children with disabilities. Additionally, he has taken in a young mother with a daughter who is a below knee amputee. He has offered the mother both a job and accommodation.

Also, in order to offer a girl with bilateral amputation the opportunity to work and feel part of society, Nelson opened a stationery shop, paying for the rent and supplies. He has also taken in a young man who has recently undergone an amputation and who will soon be employed at the orthopedic centre as a social worker. These are just a few examples of Nelson's kindness and generosity, whose desire to 'pay it forward', is boundless.



THE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION HEROS, IN UGANDA AND BEYOND!

**EMMANUEL EMOR**

Bidibidi
rehabilitation centre

**CYNTHIA ASIANZU**

Bidibidi
rehabilitation centre

**NELSON OCAYA**

Bidibidi
rehabilitation centre

**RICHARD ONYANGO**

Bidibidi
rehabilitation centre

**MARK MAWERERE**

Bidibidi
rehabilitation centre

**MARTIN BUULE**

Luweero
rehabilitation centre

**ZAKARY AZURUKU**

Yumbe
rehabilitation centre

**SAMUEL TAREMWA**

Gulu
rehabilitation centre

**DAN OCHIENG**

Gulu
rehabilitation centre

**NICHOLAS BEN KIIZA**

Gulu
rehabilitation centre

**RAPHAEL AMODOI**

Lira
rehabilitation centre

**PETER ACAMUN**

Arua
rehabilitation centre

**JAMES KISAMBIRA**

Mulago
rehabilitation centre

**KAMILO OLIHA**

Juba rehabilitation
centre, South Sudan

**FRANCIS KAKANDE**

Mbarara
rehabilitation centre

**SIMON ABIRIGA**

Hoima
rehabilitation centre

**AISHA NASEREKA**

Hoima
rehabilitation centre

**JACKSON MURUNGI**

Fort Portal
rehabilitation centre

**FABRICE HAKIZIMANA**

Bujumbura rehabilitation
centre, Burundi

A TRAINING DEDICATED TO THE MOST VULNERABLE

The training took place at the **New Hope Bidibidi Rehabilitation Centre**. Located within the Bidibidi refugee settlement. This innovative rehabilitation centre was built in 2021 in collaboration with the UK-based NGO **Hope Health Action**. The centre has provided mobility opportunities primarily to refugees from South Sudan who now reside in the Bidibidi and Palorinya refugee settlements, as well as to the most vulnerable Ugandan individuals with disabilities living in Yumbe District.

MAMBO

10 years old, born with a congenital malformation to both lower limbs



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

DENIS

40 years old, transtibial amputee due to a landmine explosion



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

BOSCO

6 years old, born with a congenital malformation to a foot



ORTHOSIS

MARTHA

24 years old, transtibial amputee due to a fire



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

SAMUEL

50 years old, bilateral transtibial amputee due to a car accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

EMMANUEL

35 years old, transfemoral amputee due to a motorcycle accident



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

RUTA

57 years old, transtibial amputee due to a snake bite



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

JANET

56 years old, transfemoral amputee



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

SARAH

56 years old, transtibial amputee due to a fire



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

MOSES

63 years old, transfemoral amputee due to a car accident



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

KASIM

67 years old, transfemoral amputee due to diabetes



TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS

JULIAS

30 years old, transtibial amputee due to untreated wounds



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

**JOSEPH HISTORY**

Joseph is 42 years old and is a refugee from South Sudan. In 2021, during the civil war, rebels raided his home and shot his father and all his uncles who were around at the time.

Despite the bullet lodged in his leg, Joseph managed to escape. After spending four days hiding in the forest, he found people willing to help him get to a hospital in the nearby Democratic Republic of the Congo, where doctors amputated his leg.

To be close to his family, he was able to move from the DRC to the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda, where his wife and six children were waiting for him.



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

**NESIA**

40 years old, transfemoral amputee due to untreated wounds



HIP DISARTICULATION PROSTHESIS IN PRODUCTION

JOSEPH

43 years old, transtibial amputee due to a car accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

FROM DESTRUCTION TO RECONSTRUCTION: THE STRENGTH OF SOUTH SUDAN

After the training in Uganda, we moved to neighboring South Sudan on a fact finding mission to visit institutions, orthopedic centres, and other non-profit organizations. The first visit was to the **Hope Health Action clinic in Kajo Keji**, a clinic that offers outpatient services, maternity services, and lab tests. Subsequently, we visited the **Juba Regional Rehabilitation Centre**, which is almost completely unused, and the **Juba National Rehabilitation Centre**, the only functioning centre in the entire country, supported by the ICRC.



HHA clinic in Kajo Keji



Juba Regional
Rehabilitation Centre



Juba National
Rehabilitation Centre

We also met with several NGOs active in South Sudan. Among them were **OVCI**, an Italian organization that implements development cooperation projects for people with disabilities in the Global South, and **Medair**, a Swiss humanitarian organization that responds to conflicts, diseases, and disasters, with 50 staff members in the country. Our presence in South Sudan concluded with a meeting with Johan Gély, head of **Swiss International Cooperation for South Sudan**, and his team. During the meeting, we discussed the dire national situation at all levels, with particular attention to the rehabilitation sector, which is currently lacking specialized NGOs.



OVCI and its rehabilitation centre active
in the production of orthotics



With the members of Swiss
International Cooperation - Juba



OUR MISSION TEAM



ROBERTO AGOSTA

Executive Director



NELSON MUBIRU

Orthopedic technician and trainer



ALESSANDRA ARIES

Program Manager

THANK YOU SO MUCH

to all donors and supporters
who made this mission possible!