

# MISSION REPORT

# MOZAMBIQUE

12 - 16 AUGUST 2024



Swiss<sup>+</sup>ABILITY

# BROAD SMILES FOR A NEW LEGS



**THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP OF  
THE INHAMBANE PROVINCIAL  
HOSPITAL, MOZAMBIQUE**

**11**

**PATIENTS RECEIVED A NEW  
PROSTHESIS**

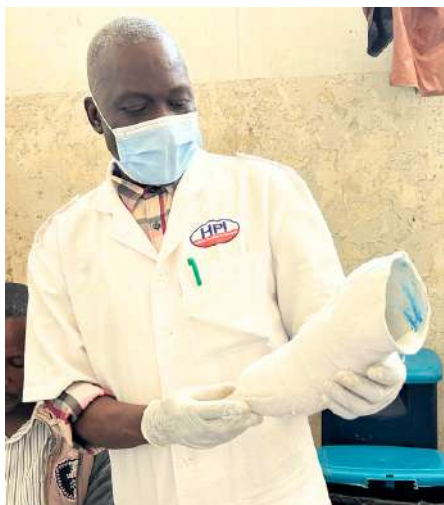
**10**

**ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIANS  
TRAINED FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND  
SOUTH AFRICA**

With great anticipation we waited for August when we had our next mission to the **Orthopedic Workshop of the Inhambane Provincial Hospital**, in **Mozambique**. Haven previously undertaken missions to Pemba, Nampula and Queilimane, our passion was driven by SwissABILITY's commitment to train as many technicians in the nation as possible.

For this reason, we did not limit ourselves to the technicians of Inhambane but also invited rehabilitation professionals from the cities of Vilanculo, Manjacaze,\*Maputo and South Africa. This served to solidify SwissABILITY's future partnerships in Mozambique.

\* From the Instituto de Ciências de Saúde



It was an intense training, rich in passion and dedication, during which everyone gave 100% to learn the new technologies taught by our Mozambican trainers, **Henrique Matsinhe** and **Isabel Campos**.

At the end of the training week, the **ten trained technicians** returned home with the awareness of having acquired important knowledge that will make life easier for people with disabilities. And with a strong desire to get to work and consolidate what they have learned.





This was our 4th mission in Mozambique to fortify the use of our low-cost, innovative technologies in orthopedic workshops throughout the country. **We aim to be present where the need is greatest and to make a meaningful impact on the lives of many people.**

We met Maria, whose story almost defies belief, but it is a truth she carries with her in a very physical way each day of her life. Maria was one of the **eleven patients** who received a prosthesis during the training week. She arrived at the orthopedic centre wearing a shy smile that hid her internal trauma. Maria is missing both a leg below the knee and a forearm. After she had told us her story, a silence filled with respect and sorrow surrounded all who heard it.

As a young mother of five children, her husband began to physically abuse her, following an argument. When she tried to escape, he grabbed a knife and started stabbing her. He severed her arm completely, then he continued to attack her entire body. Believing he had killed her, he went to the police to turn himself in. But Maria was alive! However, due to the severity of her injuries, the doctors had to amputate part of her leg as well, turning her life into a permanent prison.

But Maria did not give up. With the support of her neighbours and family, she forged ahead in life. **And at the end of the week, she received a prosthesis that provoked a new, brilliant smile.**





# AN UNLIMITED DESIRE TO LEARN: TEN NEW TECHNICIANS TRAINED



**RICARDO ROMEU**  
Orthopedic centre of  
the Inhambane  
Provincial Hospital



**CRISTINA NAFTAL**  
Orthopedic centre of  
the Hospital Rural di  
Manjacaze



**RICARDO CAPITÃO**  
Orthopedic centre of  
the Hospital Rural di  
Vilanculo



**INELDA MATSINHE**  
Student of the Instituto  
de ciências de saúde di  
Maputo



**MAGANE CALITO**  
Orthopedic centre of  
the Hospital Rural di  
Manjacaze



**MATEUS ADELINO**  
Orthopedic centre of  
the Hospital Rural di  
Vilanculo



**GERCIA MACIE**  
Student of the Instituto de  
ciências de saúde di  
Maputo



**CARLA MANAVE**  
Orthopedic centre of the  
Inhambane Provincial  
Hospital



**BERLÉ EDWARDS**  
Orthopedic centre in  
the Gauteng Province,  
South Africa



**DIANA CHAMBULE**  
Student of the Instituto de  
ciências de saúde di  
Maputo



# ELEVEN STORIES OF RESILIENCE THAT OVERCAME DIFFICULTIES

## ARMANDO V.

46 years old, transtibial amputee due to a landmine



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

## ALBERTO

28 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

## EMILIA

78 years old, transtibial amputee due to cancer



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



## FLORA HISTORY

Flora is 52 years old and lost her leg due to the **explosion of a landmine** hidden in the ground.

More than ten years ago, Flora was on her way to visit a neighbor near Inhambane when she stepped on a landmine. The explosion shattered her left leg and damaged the right one. At the hospital, they had to amputate the more severely damaged leg, but they managed to avoid amputating both. After many hours of rehabilitation, Flora was able to walk well, but the prosthesis she received at the hospital had become worn out and too loose over the years. With her new Monolimb, she hopes to find a job and become self-sufficient.



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS



## ALBERTO

47 years old, transtibial amputee due to a landmine



MODULAR PROSTHESIS

## MARIA

67 years old, transtibial amputee due to domestic violence



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

## CATHLEEN

3 years old, transtibial amputee due to an infection



MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS

**JULIA**

58 years old, transfemoral amputee due to a landmine



**TRANSFEMORAL PROSTHESIS**

**RICARDO**

58 years old, transtibial amputee due to armed conflict during the civil war



**MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS**

**ARMANDO M.**

82 transtibial amputee due to diabetes



**MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS**



**MARTA HISTORY**

Marta is 60 years old and has charm that wins you over and a smile that warms your heart. She lost her leg due to an **accident during the civil war**.

While trying to escape the horrors of the war in search of a safe place, Marta climbed onto the back of a van leaving the city of Inhambane. Unfortunately, due to the speed and the rough road, she was thrown off the van and broke a leg. No one stopped to help her, and Marta was left helpless and injured, abandoned on the road. After hours, some police officers came to her aid and transported her to the hospital, but it was too late: the doctors were forced to amputate her leg.



**MONOLIMB PROSTHESIS**







## OUR MISSION TEAM



**ROBERTO  
AGOSTA**

Executive Director



**NICOLE  
ROSSI**

Regional Director



**HENRIQUE  
MATSINHE**

Orthopedic technician  
and trainer



**ISABEL  
CAMPOS**

Orthopedic technician  
and trainer

# THANK YOU SO MUCH

to all donors and supporters who made this mission possible!