

MISSION REPORT

TANZANIA

30 SEPTEMBER - 9 OCTOBER 2024



Swiss⁺ABILITY

THREE MISSIONS TOWARDS A SINGLE GOAL: EXCELLENCE



TANZANIA - MWANZA & KIBAHA

2

TRAININGS FOR ORTHOPEDIC PROFESSIONALS



MWANZA PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS WORKSHOP - MPOW

DESIRE CHARITABLE HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTRE- DCHRC

8

PATIENTS, INCLUDING ONE WHO IS BILATERAL, HAVE RECEIVED A NEW PROSTHESIS

32

TRAINED ORTHOPEDIC TECHNICIANS

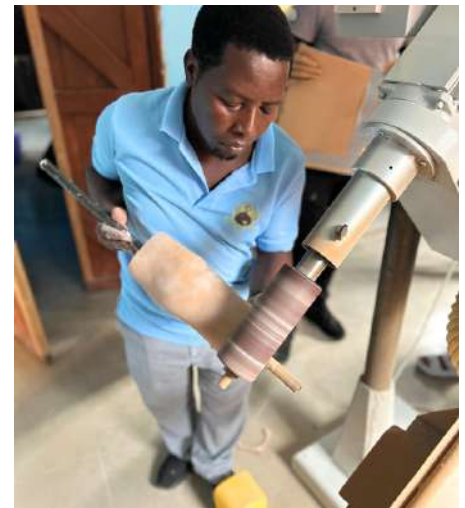
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PANEL AT THE 5TH CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PROSTHETISTS AND ORTHOTISTS OF TANZANIA APOT

At the beginning of October, SwissABILITY ran training workshops that were vital for orthopedic professionals, in two locations in Tanzania. One was at the **Mwanza Prosthetics and Orthotics Workshop (MPOW)**, in Mwanza, and the other at the **Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre (DCHRC)**, in Kibaha.

These missions promoted low-cost technological innovations in the rehabilitation field to a large number of professionals from all over the country. The initiative consolidated SwissABILITY's presence in the territory, offering participants new skills, that can be used to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

These training events helped SwissABILITY to disseminate its prosthetic solutions more broadly, while expanding its network of collaboration and partnerships.



Thanks to our valued orthopedic technicians and trainers based in Tanzania, **Nsengiyumva Magogwa** and **Claude Mushi**, we were able to train **32 orthopedic technicians**.

This double training was therefore a valuable opportunity to lay the foundation for even stronger cooperation and the development of further rehabilitation projects in the future.





These training events profoundly changed the lives of the amputees who received free prosthetics made by the participating technicians. The physical support of a new limb enables them to have more autonomy and increased independence in their daily lives.

The training in Mwanza and Kibaha, produced **nine prosthetics** for 8 patients, as one person is a bilateral amputee.

We also laid important foundations for a long-term impact by organizing the widespread distribution of materials for the production of **650 more prosthetics** across the nation. At the end of October, a container containing the necessary equipment will reach Tanzania, allowing local centres to continue making prosthetics - using the technologies we taught - at an affordable cost for the benefit of the most vulnerable people with disabilities.

We are well established in Tanzania and are determined to continue supporting its rehabilitation sector. SwissABILITY's goal is to make a difference to the thousands of amputees who still live with little prospect of obtaining a prosthesis.

One such person is *Martha, who lost a limb when she was three years old but is determined to live the life she desires for herself. Or Wema, who lost a leg to diabetes but not her hope. There are other such people who, despite adversity, look ahead, discounting what has been, but dreaming of what will be.

- See her full story on page 8







INNOVATIVE SKILLS ACROSS THE NATIONAL

TRAINING IN MWANZA



DORCAS CHRISTOPHER

Orthopedic Center of Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital



HEMED SHALUA

Orthopedic Center of Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital



SECILIA SHIRIMA

Orthopedic Center of NSK Hospital in Arusha



NGELEJA MABULA

Orthopedic Center of St. John Paul II Rehabilitation Center in Monduli



LAWRENCE CHAWALA

Orthopedic Center of Mount Meru Regional Referral Hospital



NICODEMUS GASORE

Orthopedic Center of Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam



JOSEPH ISDORY

Orthopedic Center of Songea Regional Referral Hospital



DEBORAH MCHAU

Consultant in the field of rehabilitation in Mwanza



MUKUNJA MASAMANGA

Orthopedic Center of Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital



ALBERT MUSHI

Orthopedic Center of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi



GODBLESS KALEMBO

Orthopedic Center of Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi



KELVIN RWEGOSHOLA

Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT)



EDGAR ACHILE

Ajma Orthopedic centre of Dar es Salaam



SARDINAH TINKASIMILE

Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College in Moshi



CHARLES MAHUA

Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute of Dar es Salaam



JOHN SAMUEL

Reckhab
from Dar es Salaam



GLORY KIBONA

Orthopedic Center of
Iringa Regional Referral
Hospital



KELVIN SEKEMI

Orthopedic Center of
Lugalo Military Hospital in
Dar es Salaam



LEAH MAMSERI

Muhimbili Orthopaedic
Institute of Dar es
Salaam



SUNDAY AGGER

Orthopedic Center of
Kilimanjaro Christian
Medical Centre in Moshi



LILIAN MRISHA

Orthopedic Center of
Sekou Toure Regional
Referral Hospital



YUSUPH MWALIMU

Orthopedic Center of
Mzinga Military Hospital
in Morogoro



FILOMENA GODFREY

Ze giant workshop
in Mwanza



TARIK ALI

Orthopedic Center
of Mnazi Mmoja
Hospital in Zanzibar



AMAR SAID

Orthopedic Center
of Mnazi Mmoja
Hospital in Zanzibar

TRAINING IN KIBAHA



ASHA KJORI

Ajma Orthopedic
Centre in Dar es
Salaam



RICHARD MBWALA

More Miles
Rehab Clinic in
Dar es Salaam



MAURICE RONDO

Ajma Orthopedic centre
in Dar es Salaam



ANDERSON MDASHA

Reckhab
in Dar es Salaam



NADHIFA BIGGO

Orthopedic Center of
Desire Charitable Hospital
and Rehabilitation Centre
in Kibaha



SALUM SHABANI

Orthopedic Center of
Desire Charitable Hospital
and Rehabilitation Centre
in Kibaha



MARK NDAGONERA

Orthopedic Center of
Kamuzu Central Hospital di
Lilongwe, in Malawi

NINE PROSTHETICS OFFERING NEW LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

AJUAE

14-year-old transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC

TRAINING IN MWANZA



MARTHA'S STORY

Martha is 28 years old and lost her left arm and leg in an accident involving a train when she was 3 years old.

She and friends were engrossed in a game on a railway track. The train that hit her was moving much faster than she ever could. People who rushed to the scene of the accident took her to the hospital, but her injuries were too severe to save two of her limbs. The doctors were forced to amputate her forearm and leg below the knee.



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC



KIRUMBA

70 years old, transtibial amputee due to gangrene



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC

WEMA

49 years old, transtibial amputee due to diabetes



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC

SAIDI

44 years old, bilateral transtibial amputee due to collision with a train



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC

TRAINING IN KIBAHA

RABUNA

30 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC



ASHA'S STORY

Asha is 34 years old and lost her left leg when **the bus she was travelling in was in an accident.**

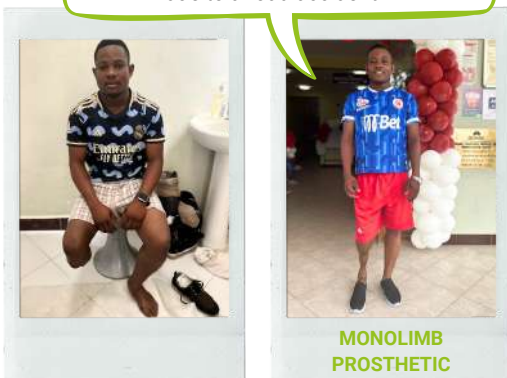
Asha is a teacher: on her way to work one day in 2017, the bus she was travelling in skidded into a wall and overturned.

A sheet of metal trapped her in the wreckage of the vehicle. Once freed she was rushed to the hospital but the injuries to her leg were too severe, and the doctors were forced to amputate it.



MUBARAKA

24 years old, transtibial amputee due to a road accident



MONOLIMB PROSTHETIC



UNITED FOR REHABILITATION: A JOURNEY OF INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION IN TANZANIA

From 3 to 5 October, SwissABILITY was invited to participate in the fifth conference organized by the **Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists of Tanzania (APOT)**. The theme of conference this year focused on the integration of prosthetic and orthotic management in healthcare. Over 50 rehabilitation professionals from all over the country were in attendance.



On the first day of the conference, SwissABILITY had the valuable opportunity to host a panel titled, **“Management of the transtibial prosthesis using the Monolimb technology technique”**

Roberto Agosta used the opportunity to present to the benefits and advantages of our low-cost technological innovations, as well as the work and mission of SwissABILITY to the entire conference.

The innovative design of the MONOLIMB prosthesis, which combines lightness and functionality, stimulated a lively debate. Participants asked many questions, both technical, regarding the advantages of the materials used, and clinical, examining the rehabilitation potential for different patient profiles. The enthusiasm about this device demonstrates the strong demand for more efficient solutions for the rehabilitation of amputees in Africa.





During the last day of the conference, the SwissABILITY team had the honour of meeting the **Deputy Minister of Health of Tanzania, Dr. Godwin Molle**. Dr. Molle expressed his appreciation for the work carried out by the Association in the territory, recognizing the positive impact of the initiatives we have undertaken.

During an open debate with the seminar participants, he welcomed both questions and constructive criticism alike. His open mindedness created a climate of constructive dialogue and strengthened the common commitment to further improve local health services.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists of Tanzania (APOT) for inviting us to participate in their conference and share our work with professionals in the field. The valued relationship we have developed with them over the years allows us to cooperate with them in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Tanzania. We are deeply grateful for their trust, and hope that this relationship will continue to grow in the years to come.



OUR MISSION TEAM



**ROBERTO
AGOSTA**

Executive Director



**NICOLE
ROSSI**

Regional Director



**NSENGIYUMVA
MAGOGWA**

Orthopedic technician
and trainer



**CLAUDE
MUSHI**

Orthopedic technician
and trainer

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

to all the donors and supporters who made
this mission possible!