



# ANNUAL REPORT



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# PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

2025 was a challenging year—one of transition, reduced capacity, and many moments that required resilience and determination. Yet through every difficulty, one thing remained constant: the quiet strength of those who believe in the association's mission and remain dedicated to pursue its goals.

Throughout the year, this strength took many forms. Encounters with people in need at orthopedic centers served as a constant reminder of SwissABILITY's purpose. Seeing a mobile clinic reach the intended beneficiaries, or a technician proudly fitting a MonoLimb prosthesis after completing training, are just a few examples of the many stories of dignity and hope made possible through the support we received.

We also had the opportunity to share our mission with a wider audience. Appearing on RSI's radio program, *Siamo Fuori* was one of several occasions to share the courageous stories of some of our beneficiaries. The generosity of communities such as the Municipality of Losone was an example of how deeply our work is appreciated both in Africa and here at home.

With patience and resilience, Roberto carried the responsibility of guiding a renewed operational team through a challenging transition, and his dedication deserves heartfelt recognition.

From the first day of the year, Marnie-Jane put the needs of SwissABILITY above her other commitments and I am deeply grateful to her. Towards the end of the year, Chiara joined us and brought with her a fresh energy. Her valuable expertise had a positive impact helping us work more efficiently.

I am also proud of how our Board has grown. Meeting after meeting, we have become a true team—each person contributing their strengths, every voice being heard and respected, and every decision made collectively.

But the most important people are you, the reader. To every donor, member, partner, volunteer, colleague and friend: thank you. Your trust and generosity form the foundation of SwissABILITY and enable us to continue making a difference where it matters most.

With heartfelt gratitude,

**Tomislav Matiević**  
President, SwissABILITY





OVER

2'000

**DIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES**

reached with our orthopedic  
devices and rehabilitation  
services



OVER

10'000

**INDIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES**

impacted by orthopedic  
devices and rehabilitation  
services



# 2025 OVERVIEW

In 2025, SwissABILITY continued to advance its mission of **providing sustainable orthopedic and rehabilitation solutions in some of the world's most vulnerable countries**, where access to rehabilitation services remains limited or non-existent.

The main barriers that limit access to rehabilitative care in Africa are: a lack of trained professionals, the scarcity of resources, and the lack of infrastructure. SwissABILITY addresses all three by **increasing the capacity of local technicians, shipping orthopedic and rehabilitation materials and creating orthopedic centers**.

Throughout the year, we conducted **eight training missions** across six countries, **equipping 117 local professionals** with hands-on training in appropriate orthopedic technologies. Our training programs are complemented by the provision of essential orthopedic materials. This ensures that the skills acquired during the training can be immediately applied in daily practice, while producing prostheses for amputees in areas where the needs are greatest.

In response to a desperate need we identified in **Senegal**, we launched a **Mobile Clinic** program, in the Casamance region. This vehicle delivers orthopedic services to hundreds of beneficiaries in rural areas who would otherwise never reach an orthopedic center.

We are inspired and greatly encouraged by this year's achievements and very grateful to our field partners, who work tirelessly, often in very challenging conditions, to ensure that support reaches those who need it most.

We are also deeply grateful to our donors and friends, whose continued trust and generosity make this work possible.

Together, we work toward a future where physical rehabilitative care is not a privilege, but accessible to all.

**Roberto Agosta**

Executive Director, SwissABILITY

- 117** technicians trained
- 8** training missions delivered
- 6** nations impacted
- 2** containers delivered
- 1** orthopedic center built
- 1** mobile clinic launched



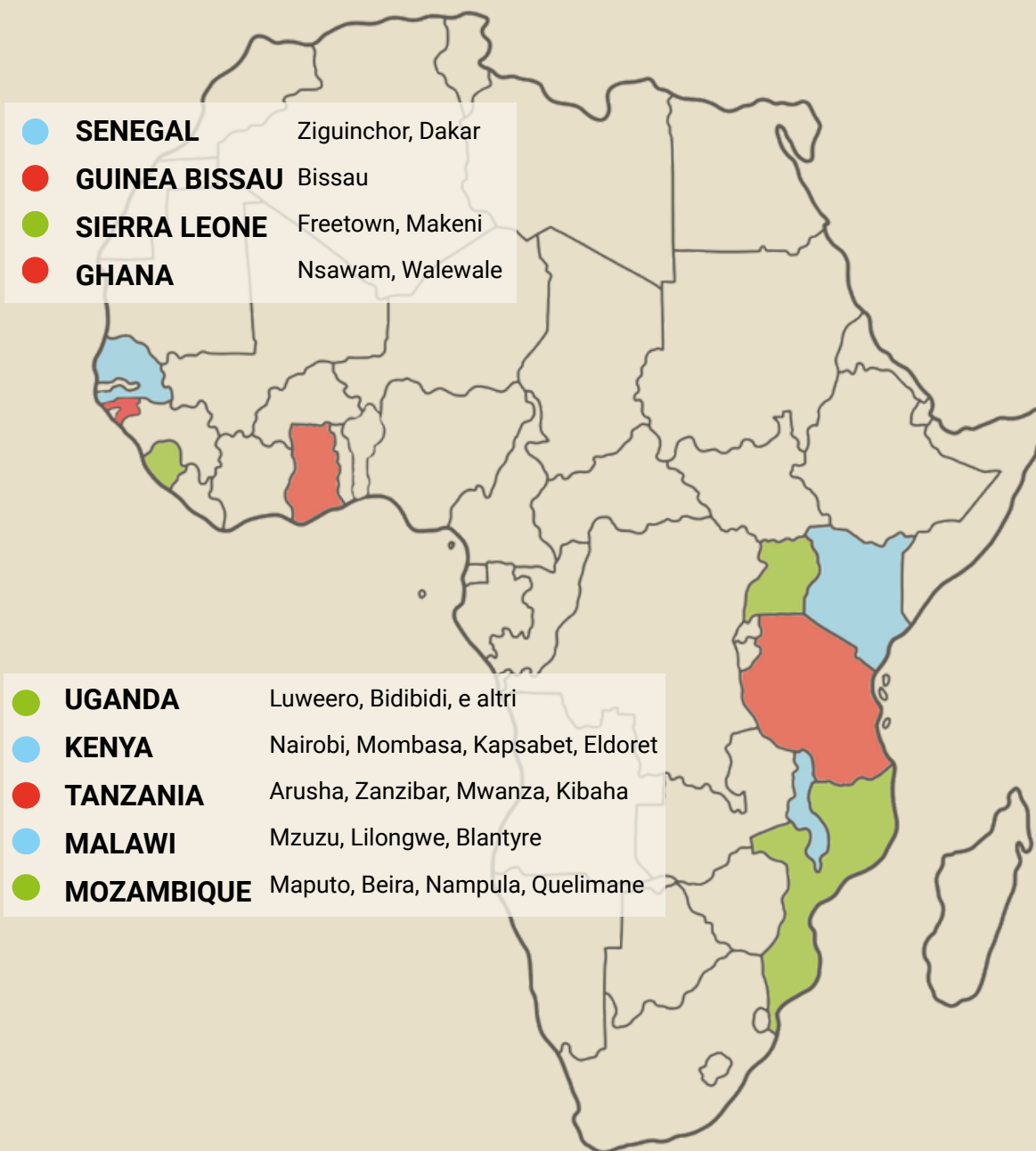
9

**COUNTRIES**  
with active projects



330

**REHABILITATION PROFESSIONALS**  
SwissABILITY's network across 35 countries



# OUR IDENTITY

## MISSION AND VISION

SwissABILITY's **vision** is to empower people in the Global South by providing access to training for Prosthetic and Orthotic (P&O) technicians, offering resources and building infrastructure, to ensure that everyone can lead a self-sufficient life.

SwissABILITY's **mission** is to enable as many people as possible in the Global South, to regain mobility and lead a dignified and self-sufficient life.

Professionals in rehabilitative care in Africa frequently encounter significant obstacles in delivering adequate services to persons with disabilities. These challenges stem from limited post graduation follow-up and training in contemporary technologies, a lack of sufficient materials needed to produce prosthetic and orthotic devices, and the absence of appropriate infrastructure to support rehabilitative services.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that less than 5% of the 80 million people with disabilities in Africa have access to rehabilitation services. This is due to the low priority given to the sector by governments who prioritise more urgent health situations. Thus, there is often a lack of sufficient programs to address the needs of people with disabilities.

SwissABILITY supports existing centers in Africa by providing training to local orthopedic technicians and offering appropriate, affordable prosthetic innovations tailored to the African context.

While prosthetic innovation in high-income countries often emphasizes comfort and versatility for diverse activities, SwissABILITY takes a different approach by focusing on the most essential needs and challenges of individuals in Africa, making the technology more accessible and relevant to the local population. The main technology provided by SwissABILITY is the '**MonoLimb**', a below-the-knee prosthesis that can be produced in just three hours at low production costs. Furthermore, the MonoLimb weighs only 1.5kg making it 40% lighter than any prostheses in its category.

To alleviate the lack of essential materials needed to produce prosthetic devices, we ship containers of essential materials that are distributed to various rehabilitation centers.

In areas where rehabilitation services are unavailable due to the lack of facilities and necessary equipment, we will develop a project and raise funds to construct and equip such a center adapted to treat people with a variety of disabilities.

## OUR HISTORY TO DATE

Founded in 2022, SwissABILITY was established by a small team bringing together decades of experience in the humanitarian field, with a strong and long-standing focus on rehabilitation services.

Since its inception SwissABILITY has grown steadily in both geographical reach and scope of activities. What began as a focused initiative has expanded to operations in nine African countries, responding to diverse local needs through an integrated approach to rehabilitation. In addition to the provision of prosthetic limbs, the association now delivers comprehensive orthotic and healthcare services, alongside essential equipment designed to improve mobility, independence, and overall quality of life.

Over this period, SwissABILITY has established two permanent rehabilitation centers and one mobile clinic, extending services to communities with limited or no access to care. A strong emphasis has also been placed on capacity building: through 21 prosthetic training missions conducted across nine countries. The association has contributed to the training of 332 technicians, strengthening local expertise and ensuring the long-term sustainability of rehabilitation services.

Training missions are closely linked to direct patient support. During these programs, amputees receive new prosthetic limbs free of charge, ensuring immediate and tangible benefits for those most in need.

To further reinforce local production capacity, two fully equipped containers capable of manufacturing hundreds of prosthetic devices have been shipped to two African countries.

In parallel, SwissABILITY has helped those who have a daily struggle with their mobility by distributing 270 wheelchairs and 60 assistive devices. Together, these initiatives reflect the association's commitment to combining service delivery, training, and infrastructure development to create lasting impact.

In just a few years, SwissABILITY has laid the foundations for a growing network of rehabilitation services, guided by a clear mission and a strong belief in equitable access to care for people with disabilities.



# OUR TEAM

**Roberto Agosta** is a professional in international humanitarian development and cooperation. He has over 30 years of field experience across 20 African countries, including 12 years of residence on the continent.

As Executive Director, he combines a strong academic background in intercultural studies and humanitarian management with extensive field experience. He has led organizations active in rehabilitation and development cooperation and promotes innovative, high-impact social solutions.

**Marnie-Jane Agosta** is a professional in administration and communications with extensive experience in humanitarian projects in Africa, developed over the past 25 years of involvement.

**Chiara Beneventi** specializes in marketing and fundraising, with academic training in Economics and Communication with proven international experience in developing high-impact fundraising strategies, managing donor relationships, and building partnerships with foundations, institutions, and private supporters.



**Roberto Agosta**  
Executive Director



**Marnie-Jane Agosta**  
Office Manager



**Chiara Beneventi**  
Fundraising Manager



**Tomislav Matiević**  
President



**Dr. Julian Lair**  
Vice-President



**Riccardo Ronchi**  
Member



**Paola Eicher**  
Member

## OUR BOARD

**Tomislav Matiević** recently retired after 35 years of experience in engineering and general management. His wise counsel is vital to the structure and oversight of our financial systems. He has also been actively involved in supporting two training missions.

**Dr. Julian Lair** is an orthopedic surgeon who previously trained as a prosthetic technician. His professional advice and leadership is an asset to the technicians he meets on the field during his annual participation in a training mission. Julian is presently the president of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) Austria.

**Riccardo Ronchi** presently holds the role of purchasing director at a medical device manufacturing company. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration. His extensive knowledge of supply chain management has greatly impacted how SwissABILITY operates.

**Paola Eicher-Pellegrini** is the director of Soccorso d'Inverno Ticino, a Swiss-based association that offers concrete help to people in need. She has vast experience in non-profit management and brings her expertise as well as a deep sense of social responsibility to pursue initiatives until they have a tangible impact.

# OUR THREE PILLARS

## TRAINING

SwissABILITY's first pillar of action focuses on strengthening local capacity by improving the competence of certified Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) technicians. In 2025, the association trained 117 technicians in MonoLimb and other prosthetic technologies, contributing to the long-term objective of establishing MonoLimb as a widely recognized and sustainable solution across the African continent.

To ensure continuity, quality, and scalability of these training activities, SwissABILITY has also invested in the development of a strong pool of qualified trainers. These trainers play a critical role in transferring knowledge and practical skills to fellow P&O technicians during training missions.

Trainers are selected through a clear and rigorous process. Candidates must be certified P&O technicians who have successfully completed at least one MonoLimb training workshop and demonstrated a high level of technical proficiency. Beyond technical skills, trainers are expected to show a strong commitment to patient wellbeing, regardless of patients' economic circumstances, as well as the ability to effectively teach and coach groups of colleagues over several days, with a strong emphasis on hands-on practice.

As trainers remain actively engaged in their professional responsibilities within their own workplaces and communities, their availability can vary. Maintaining a diverse and robust pool of trainers therefore ensures that training missions can be carried out consistently and without interruption. In 2025, SwissABILITY expanded this pool by adding **five new trainers**, further strengthening its training capacity and long-term impact.



Training missions in 2025:



## SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN  
March 2025



## SENEGAL

ZIGUINCHOR  
May 2025



## TANZANIA

ARUSHA, ZANZIBAR  
August 2025



## KENYA

MOMBASA, KAPSABET  
September 2025



## UGANDA

KAMPALA  
November 2025



## KENYA

ELDORET  
November 2025





# RESOURCES

The second pillar of SwissABILITY’s work was developed in response to the shortage of materials and equipment needed to support independent living. In 2025, two shipping containers and 10 additional pallets carrying components and supplies were shipped to Uganda and Tanzania for the production of around 1,300 prostheses.

Each container is placed in a secure location and managed by a designated coordinator responsible for distribution. This person organizes the periodic delivery of materials required for the production of approximately a dozen prostheses to laboratories in areas where trained MonoLimb technicians operate, giving priority to patients with fewer financial resources.

The value of the donated materials and the production costs are generally passed on directly to the patient. In some cases, laboratories provide subsidies to cover the costs of locally sourced materials and labor.

## MOZAMBIQUE

### A dream for tomorrow

SwissABILITY renewed its annual commitment to support the **Don Orione orphanage** in Mozambique, a residential facility that provides long-term care for approximately **100 children with severe disabilities**. Most of the children admitted to the center were abandoned at birth and require continuous daily assistance from qualified healthcare staff.

In 2025, the project focused on improving living conditions within the facility through general maintenance and refurbishment works, as well as the replacement of beds, mattresses and bedding in the dormitories. As the children spend the majority of their time within the center, ensuring a safe, well-maintained and welcoming environment remains a key element in supporting their well-being and quality of life.

### A future in movement

In Mozambique, access to appropriate mobility devices remains extremely limited. It is estimated that approximately 972,000 people—around 2.7% of the population—live with a disability; however, only a small number of institutions are able to provide wheelchairs and other assistive devices. As a result, many people remain limited in their mobility, independence, and participation in daily life.



Thanks to a special donation, SwissABILITY was able to procure **270 wheelchairs and 60 crutches** for distribution to selected families across five Mozambican provinces.

The project focuses on providing context-appropriate mobility solutions designed for rural and low-resource environments. These include Safari Seat wheelchairs, durable multi-terrain devices specifically developed for uneven ground and unpaved roads, and Motivation wheelchairs, lightweight yet robust models suited for active daily use, including school, work, and community life.

To support local capacity, SwissABILITY sent its local partner Francisco Vissonate to Kilifi, Kenya, where he was trained in the assembly of Safari Seat wheelchairs and subsequently recognized as the only certified technician for this product in Mozambique. Together with long-standing local partners, he will oversee the storage and distribution of wheelchairs and crutches.

In total, the project will support **330 beneficiaries**, including **110 children**, improving mobility, independence, and participation in daily life.





AFRICA 

**Small Steps, Huge Changes**

As children grow, their prosthetic limbs must be replaced frequently, typically every **6 to 12 months**. During its training missions, SwissABILITY has observed the considerable financial strain that these frequent replacements impose on families already facing limited resources.

Within many African healthcare systems, children with disabilities remain among the most underserved populations, often facing barriers to both medical care and long-term follow-up. In response to this gap, SwissABILITY established this project to provide targeted support to the families of underage patients encountered during its missions, helping ensure continuity of care during the crucial years of a child’s growth and development.

SENEGAL 

**Support for an orthopedic center**

While visiting the Centre d’Appareillage et de Rééducation Fonctionnelle d’Enfants et d’Adolescents Handicapés (CARFEAH) in Dakar, Senegal, the Executive Director and President of the association were deeply impressed by the impact the center has on the lives of many children living with disabilities.

Although the production of prosthetic devices is one of the many services offered at CARFEAH, the workshop lacked several essential machines and pieces of equipment. To support their work and strengthen their capacity, these machines were subsequently purchased and sent to the center.

TANZANIA 

**Support for a hospital and rehabilitation center**

Each year, SwissABILITY assists with the internal improvement of aspects of the Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Center (DCHRC) in Kibaha, Tanzania. This year, TV monitors and a cloud-based software system were procured with a dual purpose; the monitors display results directly from the X-ray department, which are simultaneously backed up online. This system enhances the transfer of valuable patient information while ensuring its data protection.

SwissABILITY also assisted with the renovation of their **photovoltaic system** and upgraded their laundry with the purchase of an **industrial washing machine**.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2025 SwissABILITY oversaw the final phase of a rehabilitation center in Senegal and initiated the first phase of a new infrastructure project, a rehabilitation center in Uganda.

## SENEGAL



### Completion of a rehabilitation center

SwissABILITY's principal partner in this project is the Initiative Solidaire des Actions de Développement (ISAD), a Senegalese association that have promoted the rehabilitation and social integration of landmine victims for over a decade.

Through the combined efforts of SwissABILITY, its donors, and local partners, the project was implemented in three successive phases, all completed within the allocated timeframe. Construction of the Center de Réadaptation Physique de Ziguinchor (CRPZ) began in January 2023 and was completed in April 2024. The second phase focused on equipping the orthopedic workshop with the necessary machinery to enable the local production and repair of prosthetic devices. The project reached completion in 2025 with the **installation of solar panels**, the inauguration of a **mobile clinic**, and the completion of the **upper level** of the center.





Given the significant mobility challenges faced by patients, many of whom travel long distances using public transport, it is essential that devices can be repaired or replaced, where possible, within a single day. The newly completed upper level of the center includes eight rooms that provide accommodation for staff, as well as for patients and caregivers who require several days of rehabilitation treatment.

To further extend access to services, the project includes a mobile clinic that delivers rehabilitation care directly to individuals who are unable to travel to the center due to financial constraints or limited access to transportation.

In addition to reaching underserved populations, the mobile clinic significantly increases the number of patients the CRPZ can support, strengthening the overall impact of the center within the region.

The solar energy system ensures a reliable and uninterrupted power supply for staff and technicians, addressing the challenges posed by an often costly and unstable municipal electricity network. This is particularly critical for the continuous operation of the machines required in prosthetic production.

**UGANDA** 
**Construction of a new center**

In 2025, SwissABILITY completed the construction of an innovative rehabilitation center in Luweero, Uganda, designed to host all operational activities of its local partner, the Nkolo Orthopaedics Rehabilitation Centre (NORC). NORC is a Ugandan non-profit organization officially registered in 2024, which previously operated from a rented house located in the town center, a setting that significantly limited the scope and development of its services.

Construction work began in the summer of 2025, marking a strategic milestone in strengthening access to rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities and patients requiring long-term care. The work progressed without interruption over a six-month period and, thanks to careful planning and continuous oversight by the local partner, the building was completed in November 2025, fully in line with the planned timeline and high-quality standards. In the same month, a delegation from SwissABILITY visited the facility to assess construction progress and structural integrity, confirming the high quality of workmanship and the forward-looking design of the center.

The next phase of the project foresees equipping the center with an orthopedic workshop, a physiotherapy unit, and an occupational therapy unit, enabling the full transfer of NORC's activities to the new premises. Once fully operational, the center will serve a stable and growing client base and contribute significantly to reducing the number of people in Uganda who are unable to access or afford adequate rehabilitation services.







# IMPACTING STORIES

## TESTIMONIALS

**Patient: Stephano Kemie**

Outside many rural African homes a fire burns throughout much of the day in order to cook the family meals. At the age of 20, while in a delirium from a high fever, Stephano fell into such a fire. The alarm was raised by children who were playing nearby but by the time his rescuers arrived his leg was so severely burned that the hospital decided without hesitation to amputate.

After leaving the hospital, Stephano returned home unaware that a recognized medical technology exists that produces prosthetic limbs.

A decade later, he took matters into his own hands and crafted a wooden leg for himself. For the next 47 years he relied on his ingenious invention, albeit that he still needed to walk with the aid of crutches. Coming from a rural area and living in poverty, he never married, as prospective partners believed he would not be able to provide for a family, so Stephano lives with his brother and sister-in-law.

This year, he was selected as one of the beneficiaries of a SwissABILITY training workshop in the MonoLimb technology, where he received the new prosthesis that enabled him to move more comfortably and independently, without relying solely on crutches.

Although a prosthetic limb like the MonoLimb would have greatly benefited him earlier, the association is pleased that he finally has access to one.

The wooden leg he wore for 47 years deserves to be displayed in a museum where it can be admired for what it was: a creative piece of equipment made by a courageous and incredible man.



### Patient: Joan Nanono

Joan represents an example of extraordinary resilience and is a source of inspiration to those around her. She lost her father during adolescence and, due to her mother's mental illness, was unable to receive the emotional support and physical care she would have needed as a child. During her high school years, she supported herself by selling sweets in her free time to meet her daily needs.

After school she established herself as a trader in the market and moved into a home with her partner. Together they had a son. However, in 2020, her life changed drastically following a motorcycle accident that made it necessary to amputate her right leg above the knee. As if this was not bad enough, her son's father abandoned her because of her disability. The combination of these two losses caused her to fall into depression.

During this, Joan's most difficult period, the team from the Nkolo Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center, a partner of SwissABILITY in Uganda, was conducting an outreach activity near her home. At the initiative of the District Education Officer, Joan was taken to meet the team. They did an evaluation of her stump, took a cast and provided her with a prosthesis free of charge. As she had not been an amputee for very long, it did not take her long to learn to walk with her new prosthesis.

Being the beneficiary of a free prosthetic had a profound impact on her daily life, opening up new opportunities and restoring her hope.



### Technician: Tarik Ali

Presently Tarik Ali leads the Prosthetic and Orthotics workshop and the Clubfoot Clinic at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in Zanzibar. He is a generous person who influences his coworkers to, like himself, go beyond the call of duty to help people with disabilities.

Due to the influence of his mentor and predecessor, Salim Seif Ali, Tarik is passionate in his vision to help patients in the surrounding region who do not have the means to travel to a hospital for treatment. Using his own resources to pay travel costs and materials provided by SwissABILITY, Tarik will take teams of his colleagues to other islands off the coast of Tanzania and spend days fitting and producing free prosthetic limbs for tens of amputees at a time.

SwissABILITY often collaborates with Tarik as head trainer on our missions to teach and spread the MonoLimb technology in Tanzania and Kenya. Tarik obtained a Certificate in Lower Limb Prosthetics from the Tanzania Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT) and later a 2-year Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics in India.

Tarik is currently in the process of registering his own association in Zanzibar with the objective of supporting underprivileged communities in the remote islands of Tanzania. Through SwissABILITY's donated materials campaign, Tarik has obtained the critical resources he needs to achieve his philanthropic goals.



## NETWORKING IN AFRICA

SwissABILITY is recognized as an important partner in the rehabilitation sector across Africa. The Association regularly engages with local, regional, and national government officials in both the social and medical fields. It is particularly encouraging when governmental and community leaders show genuine interest in SwissABILITY's initiatives and actively explore opportunities for collaboration.

In Kenya, SwissABILITY was warmly received by senior County officials, who offered local tea and traditional crafts during the mission.



On the final day of the training mission in Sierra Leone, the guest of honour was Mrs Augusta James Teima, the country's first female Minister of Sport. Mrs Teima is widely appreciated for her professionalism and positive spirit.

Many of the patients in Sierra Leone are members of the national amputee football team.

SwissABILITY's training mission in Ziguinchor, Senegal, coincided with the completion of the project's third phase. The graduation ceremony was attended by the Regional Director of Health, Mr Youssouph Tine; the Regional Director of Social Action, Mr Sydou Nourou Thiam; and the founder of the Institut Supérieur d'Études Paramédicales, Mr Addoulay Yade. Numerous media crews were present, featuring the association in national publications and television newscasts.

### Conferences with local professionals

At the end of August, the SwissABILITY team took part in the **Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists of Tanzania (APOT)**. In November, the Executive Director and trainer Nelson Mubiru attended the **National Association of Orthopedic Technologists (NAOT)** meeting in Kapsabet, Kenya.

During this event, the MonoLimb technology was showcased by Diana Nanjala who expressed great satisfaction with the lightness and mobility of her new prosthetic limb. Diana holds the titles of Miss Amputee Kenya 2024 and Miss Inclusive Kenya 2025, and uses her public platform to advocate for amputees and promote hope, inclusion, and empowerment for people with disabilities.

Attending these national conferences strengthens SwissABILITY's relationships and reputation among the many Prosthetic and Orthotic professionals present.

On both occasions, the association was able to showcase the numerous advantages of the MonoLimb technology and present its projects. As with all conferences, the conversations and agreements that are made on the sidelines of the formal sessions are invaluable in creating a strong network in the rehabilitation sector.



## FOCUS ON NELSON

Nelson Mubiru was initially trained in the MonoLimb technology from SwissABILITY's historic collaborator, Mr. Emmanuel Kalanzi in Gulu, Uganda. At the time, he had recently graduated from his studies in Orthopedic Technology in Tanzania.

Since 2023, he has collaborated with SwissABILITY as Lead Trainer on 7 training missions across Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Ghana. During this period, he trained 110 technicians in the MonoLimb technology and supported the fitting of prosthetic limbs for 111 beneficiaries.

Nelson's strong commitment to supporting others is deeply rooted in his personal experience. Following the loss of his father, he and his younger sister were raised by their mother under challenging financial circumstances. When the family was unable to pay his school fees, Nelson spent more of his time on the streets trying to earn his living as a motorbike taxi driver.

During this time, he encountered a representative of an organization that sponsors the education of children from disadvantaged families, enabling them to build better futures for themselves.



Nelson seized this opportunity without hesitation, a decision that proved transformative. After completing his compulsory secondary education, he chose to pursue a career in Orthopedic Technology, motivated by a desire to give back to vulnerable communities and people with disabilities the care, hope, and opportunities he himself had received.

Nelson is presently the founder and technical director of the Nkolo Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Center (NORC) in Luweero. He has been the manager at both the New Hope Rehabilitation Center in Bidibidi and the CoRSU Rehabilitation Hospital in Entebbe. He also holds a Higher Diploma in Leadership and Health Management.

In 2025, Nelson was inspired by the testimony of SwissABILITY's Vice-President, Dr. Julian Lair, who trained first as an orthopedic technician and subsequently as a medical doctor and surgeon. Motivated by his example, Nelson is currently enrolled in studies to become a medical doctor.

Wherever life may lead him, SwissABILITY is pleased to collaborate with someone who demonstrates Nelson's dedication to his craft and commitment to his community.



# EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

SwissABILITY actively seeks opportunities to participate in local events in order to strengthen its visibility within the community.

## Slow Up Locarno

On 13 April, SwissABILITY participated in the annual SlowUp event between Bellinzona and Locarno, during which selected roads are closed to traffic to promote safe, non-motorized mobility.

In 2025, approximately 10,000 people visited the association's stand in Locarno. SwissABILITY remained active throughout the day, engaging with visitors, distributing informational materials, and involving children in educational activities to raise awareness of the daily realities faced by individuals with disabilities. This participation significantly contributed to the association's efforts to enhance public understanding and expand its network of local supporters.

## Legacies Online Seminar

It is becoming more popular that people bequeath a donation to their preferred charity in their will. This is an admirable way to leave a lasting legacy to the memory of one's life.

Due to popular demand, we repeated a seminar that helps people understand how to draft a last will and testimony. Once again, Esq. M. Lucheschi of Studio Legale Lucheschi Mascheroni in Lugano generously offered his expertise to instruct the participants. He has a particular talent for making this delicate and often complex subject accessible and easy to understand.

## Municipality of Losone

SwissABILITY participated in an event hosted by the Municipality of Losone on 5 June, receiving a generous donation in recognition of its commitment to inclusion. The evening concluded with an interview featuring Olympic swimmer and world record holder Noè Ponti, whose participation helped highlight the importance of supporting organizations dedicated to disability awareness and empowerment.



### SUPSI Interns in Ghana

SwissABILITY collaborates with SUPSI, a Lugano-based university of applied sciences, to coordinate the practical phase of students' final Bachelor's year. This year, the association oversaw the placement of Ilona Blanchet and Marta Lavorato, who spent three months in Ghana strengthening their professional skills and building solid working relationships at the Orthopedic Training Center (OTC) in Nsawam.

### Varese

In October, SwissABILITY participated in an event to honour the life of the amputee Alpine climber, Oliviero Bellinzani. Known as *The Man With Wings*, he was a valued spokesperson for the association.

### RSI "Siamo Fuori"

On 18 November, SwissABILITY was featured on the regional television program "Siamo Fuori", a live broadcast that travels throughout the region. During the episode, the association was presented alongside other local organizations, and SwissABILITY's President was interviewed regarding the activities and initiatives carried out.





### **ISPO Austria**

The President and Vice-President of SwissABILITY attended the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) conference in Austria. During the event, Tomislav Matievic presented the association's work, while Dr. Julian Lair contributed his expertise as an orthopedic surgeon. At the conclusion of the conference, Dr. Lair was appointed as the next President of ISPO Austria.

### **Christmas Market in Minusio**

The *Istituto Scolastico Comunale of Minusio* invited us to participate in their Christmas market. The school invites two charitable associations to take part in this annual festive event.

Each class hosts a stall selling handmade items and treats made by the children with the help of their teachers and parents. The proceeds are then shared between the two selected organizations.

### **International Day of Persons With Disabilities**

The United Nations marks the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December each year. In 2025, the theme was 'Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress'. To commemorate the occasion, SwissABILITY donated five wheelchairs to families in need during an event in Beira, Mozambique. Simultaneously this also marked the launch of SwissABILITY's project 'A Future in Movement'.



# DONORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

## SERVICES AND GIFTS IN KIND

Beyond the support received from foundations and private donors, SwissABILITY also benefited from valuable contributions from businesses, partner associations, and individuals. As the well-known saying goes, “teamwork makes the dream work”, and the association welcomes any collaboration that strengthens its projects across Africa.

### Heart Foundation Ticino

The Heart Foundation of Ticino donated five defibrillators to SwissABILITY, which were subsequently delivered to the Desire Charitable Hospital and Rehabilitation Center (DCHRC) in Kibaha, Tanzania.



### AUVA Austria, Red Cross and Reha Planet

Three organisations active in the rehabilitation sector – Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA) in Austria, the Red Cross in Manno, and Reha Planet in Castione – provided prosthetic components, rehabilitation equipment, wheelchairs, and assistive devices.

Throughout 2025, the association ensured that these valuable contributions were transported to various workshops in the countries where it operates. Such donations generated significant cost savings and reduced the logistical burden on rehabilitation centers, for which many of these materials are difficult or impossible to obtain locally.

### Kammea Association

Each December, the Kammea Association of Riva San Vitale donates packages of its **homemade biscuits** to SwissABILITY to be sold as Christmas treats and gifts. The 100 packages received this year were quickly sold out, generating appreciated funds in support of the association’s activities.

### Joya Shoes

SwissABILITY benefited from a donation of shoes through “Second Life”, the charitable initiative of the Swiss shoe manufacturer Joya. Over the course of several missions, these shoes were distributed to beneficiaries whose foot size matched the available pairs.

As a result, some amputees benefitted from a new pair of shoes to match their new prosthetic limbs. This commendable initiative is an excellent example of how businesses can extend their operations to support people in need who would otherwise be unable to afford their products.



### Körper Formen

The Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS) training center Körper Formen in Manno, Lugano organized a 40-day fundraising initiative by setting up a dedicated solidarity corner at the checkout counter to promote SwissABILITY’s activities. Through this initiative, clients were invited to contribute donations, and the funds collected were sufficient to cover the cost of a prosthetic limb for an amputee in Africa, directly supporting the association’s mission.



### Social media campaigns

Elena Pernici, a professional social media marketing specialist, generously donated **her expertise** to SwissABILITY by managing a fundraising campaign on our Facebook and Instagram accounts in December. Her contribution significantly increased the association’s visibility, and further collaboration is planned for 2026.

### Friends from Tesserete

Filly Agosta, Angela Domenici and Carmen Stranieri donated the income from their **handiwork of nativity scenes and handmade dolls** which they sold at an open-air stall in Tesserete during the cold month leading up to Christmas.

# CALL TO ACTION

## Become a member

SwissABILITY welcomes new members who wish to support people with disabilities living in some of the most vulnerable regions of Africa. By becoming a member for an annual fee of CHF 30, supporters receive regular updates on the association’s activities and opportunities to take part in its initiatives.

## Become an ambassador

Supporters can help raise awareness of the challenges faced by people with disabilities in Africa by promoting SwissABILITY’s work within their families, colleagues, and social circles.

Keeping informational materials about the association at hand—at home, in a bag, or in the car—allows ambassadors to share them whenever the opportunity arises.

## Become a volunteer

SwissABILITY invites volunteers to take part in activities designed to promote awareness of the needs of people with disabilities across Africa. Assisting at the association’s stands during local summer events is a highly effective and greatly appreciated way to contribute. SwissABILITY provides training to prepare volunteers for engaging educational and interactive activities that help initiate meaningful conversations with passers-by about this important cause.



84

association members

registered



43

volunteers

active during the year

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## SwissABILITY Association

### BALANCE SHEET

for the year ending on 31.12.2025

All amounts are in CHF

<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Bi.A</b>	<b>Current assets</b>		
	Cash	628'771.65	541'643.60
	Debitors	-	-
	Warehouse	6'726.84	26'033.54
	Accounts receivable	218.75	9'284.10
	<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>635'717.24</b>	<b>576'961.24</b>
<b>Bi.B</b>	<b>Fixed assets</b>		
	Guarantee	3'200.00	3'200.00
	Furniture and equipment	-	-
	Properties	-	-
	<b>Total fixed assets</b>	<b>3'200.00</b>	<b>3'200.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>638'917.24</b>	<b>580'161.24</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Bi.C</b>	<b>Third party short-term liabilities</b>		
	Creditors	-	-
	Other short-term liabilities	5'539.70	168.48
	Accounts payable	-	4'900.55
	Allocations	1'800.00	31'725.00
	<b>Total third party short-term liabilities</b>	<b>7'339.70</b>	<b>36'794.03</b>
<b>Bi.D</b>	<b>Liabilities of restricted funds</b>		
	<b>Total capital of restricted funds</b>	<b>572'260.74</b>	<b>457'296.67</b>
<b>Bi.E</b>	<b>Equity</b>		
	Capital	-	-
	Reserve	-	-
	Equity carried forward	59'316.80	59'316.80
	Current year result / Profit (+) Loss (-)	-	26'753.74
	<b>Total equity</b>	<b>59'316.80</b>	<b>86'070.54</b>
	<b>TOTALE LIABILITIES</b>	<b>638'917.24</b>	<b>580'161.24</b>

**SwissABILITY Association**

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
for the year ending on 31.12.2025  
All amounts are in CHF

INCOME		2024	2025
CE.A1	Donations received	1'198'391.31	675'445.01
CE.A1.a	Unrestricted donations	35'627.71	56'699.75
CE.A1.b	Debitors	1'162'763.60	618'745.26
CE.A1.c	General donations association	-	-
CE.A2	Social fee	2'070.00	1'169.63
CE.A3	Income from manifestations and events	-	-
CE.A4	Other income	5'088.50	1'165.04
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1'205'549.81</b>	<b>677'779.68</b>
EXPENSES		2024	2025
	<b>Direct expenses for projects</b>		
CE.B1	Project expenses	-544'230.89	-642'967.27
CE.B2	Administrative expenses	-163'736.47	-58'632.72
CE.B3	Awareness and information expenses	-	-
	<b>Total direct expenses for projects</b>	<b>-707'967.36</b>	<b>-701'599.99</b>
	<b>Fundraising expenses</b>		
CE.B4	General fundraising	-3'609.15	-32'769.47
CE.B5	Specific fundraising	-323.31	-31'070.06
	<b>Total fundraising expenses</b>	<b>-3'932.46</b>	<b>-63'839.53</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-711'899.82</b>	<b>-765'439.52</b>
	<b>Intermediate result</b>	<b>493'649.99</b>	<b>-87'659.84</b>
	Financial result	-375.64	-550.49
	<b>Result before variation in fund liabilities</b>	<b>493'274.35</b>	<b>-88'210.33</b>
	Variation in fund liabilities	-455'213.60	114'964.07
	<b>Annual result (before allocation to equity)</b>	<b>38'060.75</b>	<b>26'753.74</b>
	Reserve	-	-
	Other uses	-	-
	<b>Operating result</b>	<b>38'060.75</b>	<b>26'753.74</b>

The annual accounts are prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 and audited by an external auditor accredited by the Federal Audit Oversight Authority (FAOA).

The detailed annual accounts, together with the audit report, are published on the website: [www.swiss-ability.org](http://www.swiss-ability.org)



# WITH THANKS

SwissABILITY relies entirely on the generosity of its supporters. Without the contributions of foundations, companies, associations, and private individuals, it would not be possible to carry out the organization's activities.

Every donation, regardless of its amount, makes a significant contribution to improving the lives of hundreds of people within the association's network in Africa—from recipients of prosthetic and mobility aids to the rehabilitation professionals who support them.

Each of these individuals is part of a family context, which in turn benefits from the improved quality of life of their loved ones.

A special thank you is extended to the main sponsor, a family foundation whose financial support and valuable advisory contribution represent a key element in the well-being and development of SwissABILITY.









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