

Irbid, Jordan – Mission Report, February 2017



“I sincerely thank you for the relief that this project brings to myself and my people. Not only we are thankful for the donation but also because this prosthetic SwissLeg is lighter and more comfortable and will allow me to walk much better and even run.”

Hamdan Hilal Al-Musa: 30 years old from Syria

*“I thank **SwissLimbs** for their service to needy amputees. Furthermore, the hospital has received a precious contribution towards its technicians who, not only have learned new skills but also were taught how to deal with the patients in a more humanitarian manner.” - Dr. Ali Alrioub, Director for Rehabilitation Al-Bashir Hospital, Amman.*

SwissLimbs is a not-for-profit organization based in Switzerland, specialized in capacity building of local professionals and organizations in the ortho-prosthetic field. We restore advanced mobility to disabled people who have unfavorable options and resources to secure their own rehabilitation.

We believe that “mobility is a basic human right that should be accessible to everyone everywhere.”

www.swisslimbs.org

ACHIEVEMENTS

TRAINED 3 Orthopedic Technicians

RESTORED mobility to 13 Satisfied Amputees

REHABILITATED Orthopedic Workshop



IMPLEMENTOR : **SwissLimbs** Association, Mendrisio, Switzerland

DONOR : Swiss foundation

PARTNER : the Ministry of Health of Jordan, the National Committee of Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) of Jordan

LOCATION : Princess Basma Hospital, Irbid, Northern Jordan

Commissioned by the National Committee of Demining and Rehabilitation, **SwissLimbs** executed a special mission rehabilitating the Orthopedic workshop of the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid, North Jordan. Due to lack of trained personnel and basic materials the workshop was standing still, while the needs outside were pressing.

The mission brought training for 3 Jordanian technicians that received a total of 130 hours and rehabilitated 13 beneficiaries (10 new prostheses and 3 follow ups), below amputees from Syria and Jordan.

Dr. Walid Momani, head of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department at Princess Basma hospital, was very appreciative of **SwissLimbs** for this humanitarian mission. He also expressed his positive technical assessment regarding the new technology which gave amputees several advantages such as: reduced weight, improved stability in walking, and best fit.

Mr. Filippo Nishino, president of **SwissLimbs** declared that “**SwissLimbs**’ innovative model has proven to make the difference in amputees’ life due to the access to an affordable technology that restores advanced mobility. We also believe that **SwissLimbs** will contribute to increase the efficiency in the ortho-prosthetic field in the benefit of the Jordan health system as a whole and beyond”.

Roberto Agosta, Executive Director, thanked their donors, the NCDR, the Ministry of Health, and the Princess Basma personnel for all the dedication, passion and support they offered to achieve the mission successfully.

Ibrahim Hussein Al-Jarad – 27 years old man from Dara’a, Syria recalls his tragic story: “I was in the street playing soccer with my neighbourhood friends when suddenly and unexpected blow of a mortar shell disrupted our game, and our lives. It was March 16th, 2014. Two of my friends died on the spot and 6 of us sustained severe injuries. I was numb with excruciating pain and was immediately taken to the emergency clinic where they removed one of my kidneys and my right leg. My injuries were so bad that in the next 1 ½ years I had to undergo 41 surgeries. I was completely shattered”. Ibrahim was fitted with a new prosthetic leg which gave him a chance to rebuild his life.

Mohammad Nhaier, 58 y.o. from Dara’a, Syria – concludes his story with these words:

“I suffered so much, a suffering that I wish not even to my worst enemy. 14 surgeries later, and over 3 years after that fateful day I finally received my first leg. I don’t know how to express my thanks to **SwissLimbs** and to their donors for such kindness. I can walk again, and this is a miracle”.

SwissLimbs gave him a first prosthesis on February 4th, 2017

THE **SwissLimbs** TEAM



From left to right:

Filippo Nishino – President

Daniele Kläy – Certified Ortho-
Prosthetist, Trainer

Roberto Agosta – Executive Director

Suzan Ibrawesh – Country
Representative

THE REHABILITATION TEAM



Dr. Walid Momani – Director Rehabilitation Department Princess Basma Hospital, Irbid

Qusai Mahmoud – Trained technician

Mrs Huda – Trained technician

Anas Hindi – Trained technician

THE BENEFICIARIES

Nr.	Age	Nationality	Service Received*	Reason for amputation
1	26	Syrian	RBK	Syrian conflict - War wounded
2	48	Syrian	RBK	Diabetes
3	27	Syrian	LBK	Syrian conflict War wounded
4	58	Syrian	RBK	Syrian conflict War wounded
5	35	Syrian	LBK	Syrian conflict War wounded
6	9	Syrian	LBK	Syrian conflict War wounded
7	57	Jordanian	L-Symes	Car accident
8	56	Jordanian	LBK	Diabetes
9	25	Syrian	LBK	Syrian conflict War wounded

10	30	Syrian	LBK	Syrian conflict War wounded
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*R/L Right/Left BK=Below Knee

PHOTOS OF BENEFICIARIES





“Moumuk” and his mother in the picture, received their first leg in 2014 after the tragic accident. He is 9 now and growing fast. This is his 3rd leg donated by us. His story and his family’s was captured by RSI in 2014 (Falò) and RTS (Mise au point).

TRAINING MOMENTS



Testimonials

“Rockets were flying from the sky. There was no time to run for cover and the carnage was unescapable“, Mohammad - 58 years old from Raqqa, Syria .



“The streets of Raqqa were full of people going home after work. Me too, I walking home when the rockets suddenly hit. People were running and shouting, 20 people were severely injured and 6 died. I saw something that I will never forget: as a building was collapsing a lady was shot out of the balcony of her flat, free falling to her death. I found myself 100m away, so strong was the explosion.

We were rushed to the emergency room of the hospital only to find it completely deserted. All medical personnel fled in fear of the Isis fighters who just invaded the city and made themselves the new rulers.

There was no other option but to return home and mend our own injuries. My body was covered with metal splints, especially my leg, which even with the best efforts I could not treat appropriately. I desperately needed medical attention and I started to plead for permission from the Isis new rulers to go to Damascus hospital. 4 months later I received it, but it was too late to save my leg and the doctors could do nothing else but to cut it off. I was angry, I have no way to describe my feelings at senseless behaviour from those people.



In Damascus, the situation got worse and they took us as refugees to the Zaatari camp. I cannot describe the conditions there were terrible back in 2013. It was cold, unorganized, we were sharing a tent, it was cold and food was scarce. It was unbearable, so we saw a gap and escaped to the nearby city of Irbid where we live to this day.

I suffered so much, a suffering that I wish not even to my worst enemy. 14 surgeries later, and over 3 years after that fateful day I finally received my first leg. I don't know how to express my thanks to **SwissLimbs** and to their donors for such kindness. I can walk again, and this is a miracle.

I don't have too many hopes for my future; it is too painful to see the devastation of my Country and the scattering of my family."

Mohammad Nhaier lives in Irbid since 2013 under assistance. Back in Syria he was the headmaster of a school, his wife Adiba was a teacher under the Ministry of Education. They have 6 children, 4 of which now adults with degrees and professional training are now doing manual jobs to survive here in Jordan.

SwissLimbs gave him a first prosthesis on February 4th, 2017

„I was playing soccer when suddenly an unexpected blow of a mortal shell disrupted our game... they removed one of my kidneys and my right leg“, Ibrahim - 27 years old from Dara'a, Syria .



“I was walking in the street playing soccer with the neighbourhood friends when suddenly and unexpected blow of a mortal shell disrupted our game, and our lives. It was March 16th, 2014.

2 of my friends died on the spot and 6 of us sustained severe injuries. I was numb with excruciating pain and was immediately taken to the emergency clinic where they removed one of my kidneys and my right leg. My injuries were so bad that in the next 1 ½ years I had to undergo 41 surgeries. I was completely shuttered.

The reconstruction of my lower limbs had to happen in several stages; first they had to reconnect my arteries taking healthy tissue from my left leg, then they had to create a suitable stump so that, one day I could wear a prosthetic leg.

My life changed forever: back in Syria I was living happily with my family and working with my other 5 brothers in the family business, we are floor layers and were doing very well. I miss them. Now we are separated, 1 of my brothers managed to go to Germany, one to Qatar, one is dead. Only one is left here in Irbid. I also have 6 sisters, one still lives in Syria, one went to America and the other 4 are scattered throughout Jordan. I can consider myself happy to be alive, but it will take time to rebuild my life.

I dream of a free Syria and to be able to go back to my own home and rebuild my family business. I hope that my dream will come true.”