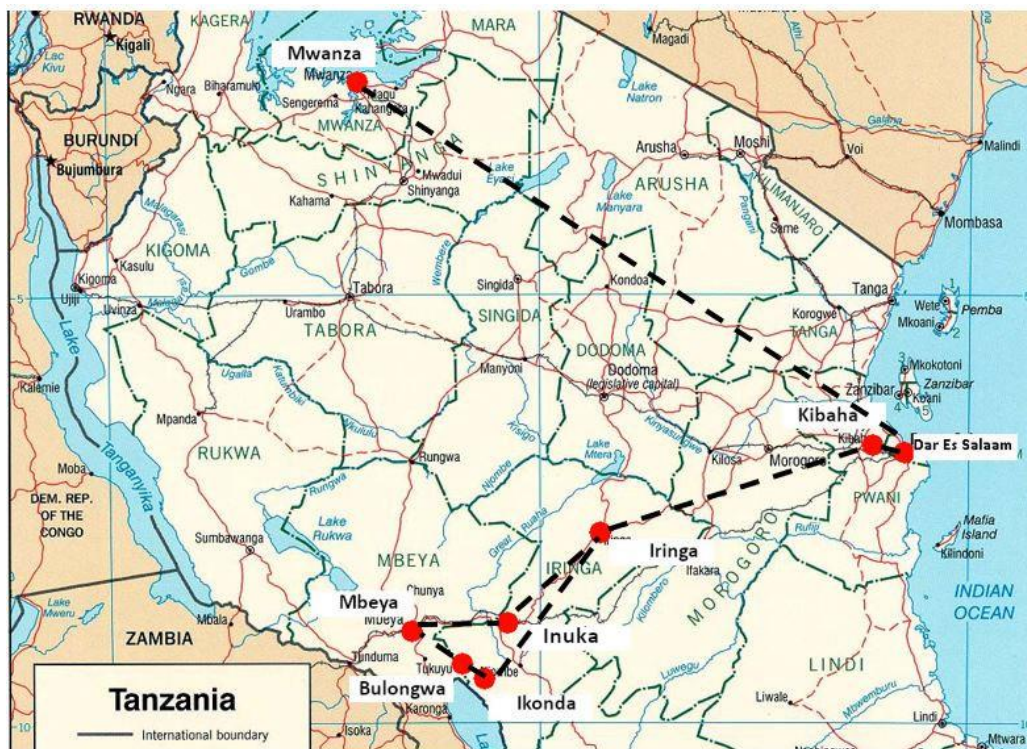


SwissLimbs Mission to Tanzania Report

From September 17 to October 1 2020



1. OVERVIEW OF SWISSLIMBS MISSION TO TANZANIA

During a two-week period, the SwissLimbs team composed of Filippo Nishino (President), Roberto Agosta (Executive Director) and Nicole Rossi (Administrative and Operations Officer) travelled to Tanzania to visit its projects and initiate new partnerships.

The first stop was to its new hospital and rehabilitation center in **Kibaha**, which will become operational towards the end of 2020. There the task was to help to set up the wards and machinery room. The team then moved to **Iringa**, where SwissLimbs co-financed the construction and equipping of the orthopedic center within the Iringa Regional Referral Hospital with machinery and materials. The mission continued to **Ikonda**, where SwissLimbs started its first project in Tanzania in 2016 for a follow-up visit its workshop to get to know the new management for future collaboration and training of their technicians. After that, the team visited the orthopedic workshops in **Bulongwa**, **Mbeya** and **Inuka**, which they supplied with various new machinery and materials and evaluated possible future partnerships. Finally, the team moved to Mwanza, where SwissLimbs established an orthopedic center in 2018 which is now up and running.

The visit coincided with the arrival of a container full of materials and machineries from Europe, so there was a lot of sorting out to do.

2. THE HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN KIBAHA



The hospital and rehabilitation center in **Kibaha**, situated in the region of Pwani (40 minutes drive from the city of Dar es Salaam), should be operation by the end of the year, is the first hospital that SwissLimbs has had the honor to help build.

The hospital will offer **complete rehabilitation services** for in and out patients complete with 6 wards (with a 24-bed capacity) and two operating theatres. The orthopedic workshop has been equipped with a machine room, a fitting room, a modification room, a bench working room. In addition, there will be rooms for administrative work and patient care, and a future physiotherapy.

The implementation of this project has been made possible by generous donations from a Swiss Foundation and the co-financing of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). After the

purchase of the land and construction of the building in Kibaha, SwissLimbs started a second phase of the project: installing a **photovoltaic system** that will guarantee the supply of electricity for the entire hospital. During the mission the team had the opportunity to meet with solar energy suppliers, kickstarting the work which will be complete by the end of 2020.

At the end of June 2020, **24 hospital beds** were donated by our local Swiss Italian hospital which arrived at destination and have been beautifully arranged in each ward

3. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN IRINGA



The SwissLimbs team visited the **Iringa Regional Referral Hospital** in, a facility that can serve between 350 and 450 patients and employs 420 people, including medical and administrative staff.

Within this hospital, SwissLimbs has co-financed the construction and equipment of machinery and materials for an **orthopedic workshop**. This center should become operational before the end of 2020 and aims serve between 300 and 400 patients per year, employing up to 5 people when fully operational.

4. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN IKONDA



In 2016, SwissLimbs – at the request of the Swiss non-profit association Kammea – started a project within the **Consolata Hospital Ikonda**, through the creation of an orthopedic workshop. This workshop is equipped with machinery and materials to provide a full range of services to amputees and disabled people in general and is currently fully operational. In 2019, more than **190 prostheses** were manufactured in this workshop in the region of Makete.

The aim of the Swisslimbs' visit to Ikonda during this mission was to strengthen their cooperation with the new hospital administration and discuss the possibility of collaborating with further **technical training** and continued supply of machineries and materials to improve the skills of the technicians and the output of the orthopedic workshop.

5. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN BULONGWA





This mission was also an opportunity to get to know the needs of orthopedic workshops in locations throughout Tanzania that the SwissLimbs team has never been before. One such workshop was in a small, remote village in **Bulongwa**, also in the region of Makete. During the visit, the team were able to deliver some materials the workshop had ordered but once there, realized that the need was much bigger than anticipated. SwissLimbs was able to offer them a new router machine, a shoemaker finishing machine, a vacuum machine, and other various materials. The workshop is very old and operates with outdated or makeshift machinery. The orthopedic team consists of two people (the orthopedic technician and the shoemaker) and produces **60 prostheses per year** (more or less 5 prostheses per month).

The Bulongwa team is doing a tremendous job considering the restraints they operate under and they are one of the many workshops in Tanzania that needs support and training which we are happy to be able to give.

6. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN MBEYA



The SwissLimbs team also visited the orthopedic workshop located within the **Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital**, a facility that can serve 700 patients (in a region with a large catchment area, about 8 million people). The orthopedic workshop serves **100 patients per year** and its team consists of **4 people** (2 orthopedic technicians and 2 assistants).

The management of the orthopedic center wants to continue to receive assistance to **improve the quality** of their services and enhance their skills. SwissLimbs ran a training mission there in 2018 and we discussed the need to offer them further training in the near future.

7. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN INUKA



The SwissLimbs' mission also took the team to the Southern Highlands Community Based Rehabilitation Centre based in **Inuka**. They offer their services to about **40 patients a week**, most of them disabled children. Of these 40 patients, at least **10 need orthotics**, a very high number considered the workshop

only employs 3 technicians. The center is also equipped with a **carpentry workshop** for the production of low-cost orthotics as well as special chairs or walkers for the patients affected by severe physical and mental disabilities.

The SwissLimbs team took opportunity of this visit to initiate a supportive partnership that will supply them with needed materials and organize training for their orthopedic technicians.

8. THE ORTHOPEDIC WORKSHOP IN MWANZA



The orthopedic workshop in **Mwanza** has been inaugurated in 2018, SwissLimbs initially created this workshop and supported its implementation, providing it with machinery and materials and assists with technical and managerial training. The Mwanza workshop now also serves as **distribution point** for the supply of materials and machines for other orthopedic workshops in Tanzania. Claude Mushi - the general manager of the workshop - is overseeing the training, and with his team is handling the many challenges of rehabilitation in the vast Lake Region in Tanzania.