

MISSION REPORT – INDIA

February 2019

Rural Challenges – High-Tech Solutions

SwissLimbs Restores Mobility to 4 Patients with 3 Legs & 1 Myoelectric Hand



IMPLEMENTOR: SwissLimbs Association, CH-6514 Sementina, Switzerland

PARTNERS: The CRHP, The Comprehensive Rural Health Project (www.jamkhed.org)
G.I.C.A.M. Gruppo Internazionale Chirurghi Amici della Mano (www.gicam.net)

LOCATION: Jamkhed, Maharashtra, India

INDIA MISSION REPORT

SwissLimbs' first mission of 2019 was to a small town in the heart of India called Jamkhed. To reach it one needs to make a 2-hour flight from New Delhi to Pune then travel overland for another 5 hours. Jamkhed is known for its Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP), which amongst other impacting community development projects runs a 50-bed Hospital, fully dedicated to serve the poorest of the poor in a community of 500,000 souls.

Our colleagues from G.I.C.A.M., a NGO network of hand and foot surgeons who have been voluntarily supporting CRHP with their professional skills for the last five years, invited us to join them this year. Some of the group traveled from Switzerland & Italy and were joined in India by colleagues from Uganda and Australia making up a true international "team of healers". Some specialized in operating on existing limbs to restore their functionality, others in giving prosthetics to restore mobility to those who had lost limbs.

THE CHRP & GICAM TEAM



Prof. Marco Lanzetta GICAM director (middle) with CHRP directors **Dr. Shobha Arole** (left) and **Dr. Ravi Arole** (right)

Francesca (Logistician), **Tatiana** (Physiotherapist), **Francesca** (Instrumentalist) from Italy, and **Dr. Mary Juliet** (Anaesthetist) from Uganda



The complete team with **Dr. Paul** (surgeon) from Australia

The orthopedic workshop was not as functional as we had expected. Despite the age of the oven, it did work after some tweaking but many of the orthopedic machines and manufacturing tools were missing. Adding to this, the plaster of Paris, an integral part of our reconstruction process was of such low quality its tendency to crumble made our work extra laborious.

Once again, thanks to the ingenuity of our resourceful Mr. Kalanzi, who put his 40 years' experience to good use daily, we could deliver 4 beneficiaries with a prosthesis and train our two Indian assistants in the SwissLimbs' technology.

TRAINING & MANUFACTURING MOMENTS



Emmanuel Kalanzi & Roberto Agosta of **SwissLimbs** with our helpers **Jabbar** and **Jairash** – all in a team effort



E.Kalanzi showing **Jabbar** how to build the positive mold of the **Monolimb**.



Mr. Kalanzi successfully handling the old oven.

THE BENEFICIARIES



Vishwas Kharvade, 40, L-BK
Congenital disease



Mukta Tambe, 28, L-BK
Traffic Accident



Meena Samudre, 59, R-AK
Congenital disease



Ananda Kaladati, 63, R-Tranradial
Accident with grain thrashing machine

A TRAGIC ACCIDENT - Father of 3 burned in an attempt to save his children from fire



Two years ago, Gangaram suffered severe full body burns during the tragic night he needed to run into a burning hut to save his 3 children. The desperate father managed to save two, but could not save the third as he himself got caught in the fire. He is lucky to be alive and has been taken care of by CHRP and GICAM as they reconstructed the damaged parts of his body. He has undergone several operations to his face and neck, his next operation will be to amputate both of his hands which are beyond repair.

SwissLimbs is looking for sponsors to give Gangaram two prosthetic hands, to rehabilitate him and help him regain some functionality.

Gangaram Manjabapu Bichkul
40 years old. form Nahuli, India
Full body burns

Thank you !

To all our donors, our dedicated team, supporters and partners.

This was our most challenging mission, but we learned a great deal, especially, how much you can do with little.



TESTIMONIAL

Meena Chandrakant Samudre, from Jamkhed, India
59 year old, married with 2 children and 1 grandchild



Meena, happy to substitute her old heavy leg with her new **SwissLimbs**' one.

Meena was born with a congenital deformity. Her diminished right leg was non-functional and caused her a series of problems. Finally, the doctors decided that it was best to amputate and give her an artificial above-knee prosthesis. Although she was happy to be able to walk it was never without pain as neither the wooden nor the aluminum prosthetic she had was fitted well enough for her to be mobile.

She was overjoyed at the sight of her new leg with a proper knee-joint, which was light and most importantly with a customize, comfortable fit.

Meena is the CHRP cashier, her husband a lab technician and both her children and their wives are nurses. She received an Above Knee prosthesis from **SwissLimbs** on February 8th, 2019.