



circleg

holistic prosthetic care

WHO WE ARE

Circleg is a Swiss-East African social enterprise, endorsing a unique, holistic approach in the provision of prosthetic care. We provide quality functional prosthetics, training and enabling services at affordable prices, to respond to the urgent global shortage of such systems, while fostering holistic healthcare. We have developed an innovative lower limb prosthetic designed and engineered specifically for the needs of amputees and prosthetists in low- to middle-income countries (LMICs). It is to be manufactured in Kenya, close to our beneficiaries, following the principles of the circular economy.

65% of the world's 65 million amputees reside in LMICs, yet only 5-15% of them have access to prosthetic devices, due to the unaffordability of existing prosthetics and overall supply shortage. By 2050, this global need is expected to double. In the African continent, 3.7 million people live with lower-limb amputations, 20% of whom in East Africa alone, with 60.000 new amputees added in the region each year. The quality of locally provided prosthetics is seldom reliable and functionally limited. Poorly-fitted or low-functionality prosthetics, which do not satisfy real user needs, are often abandoned.

WHY WE ARE NEEDED

WHAT WE DO



PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY PROSTHETIC CARE

The Circleg prosthesis is a high quality, modular, functional, aesthetic and affordable prosthetic leg for above- and below-knee amputees. The components were designed specifically for the needs of amputees and prosthetists in LMICs. The modular design enables individual adjustments, the repair of 'wear and tear' and the replacement of broken components, reducing time and cost for both the orthopedic technicians and amputees. To ensure high quality provision we provide training services to accompany our distribution and strengthen the overall capacity of the system. The Circleg is priced at around 400-600 USD, while comparable prostheses are currently priced at 1000-2000 USD, not locally produced and in very short supply.



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE MODEL LOCALLY

The Circleg system is designed and produced following the principles of the circular economy. The prosthetic comprises locally recycled post-consumer plastic mixed with glass fibres, for strength and durability. Broken parts can be exchanged and returned to be transformed into new prosthetics. In this way, we produce quality prosthesis while promoting sustainable resource use and ensuring availability. The prosthetic is to be manufactured close to our users, in our regional Hubs. The Circleg East African Hub in Kenya will be the first of its kind, responsible for on-site production as well as assembly, in order to manage quality and distribution of the Circleg prosthetic system in the region.



ENABLING BROADER ACCESSIBILITY

We also develop projects and campaigns to empower amputees and decrease the stigma around amputation. The aim is to enable them to live fulfilled lives as active members of society, aware of the resources available to them to simplify their everyday lives. In addition we want to develop mechanisms to increase accessibility for prosthetic care. In partnership with other organizations we aim to create solutions such as the provision of micro-loans to amputees in need and subsidies for prosthetic access. To further increase access to low income amputees, we want to provide sponsored „Freedom of Mobility Packages“, including prosthetic components as well as all the annexed materials and services required to guarantee low income amputees long term freedom of mobility.

SCALABLE IMPACT

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Access to a functional prosthetic has a tremendous impact on amputee's life. Regaining freedom of mobility enables reintegration into society, improves amputees' well-being, chances of employment, productivity, intimacy, health, self-esteem and safety. Access to prosthetics has been also proven to increase life expectancy and decrease the chances of hospitalization. In addition, through our circular production we promote sustainable resource use and reduce the negative impact of prosthetics on the environment.

SCALABILITY

The Circleg Hub model is designed to be replicable and intended to be adaptable to other geographic regions in need.

IMPACT MANAGEMENT

We closely monitor and manage our impact, following the IRIS+ System.



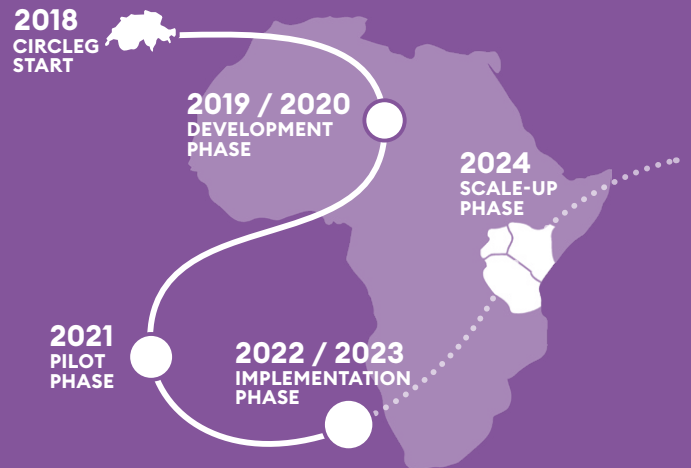
TEAM & PARTNERS



We are an international, multidisciplinary team of engineers, industrial designers, business developers and communication specialists, driven by our passion for creating impactful solutions to urgent problems. Our core team is supported by a key network of East African stakeholders, such as P&O centers (several of which have already expressed a strong interest in acquiring our product), prosthetists and amputees from Switzerland and East Africa, as well as research institutions, who are actively participating in the development of the Circleg prosthetic system. We collaborate with established technical Swiss (ETHZ, FHNW and ZHDK), Kenyan (Strathmore University) and Ugandan research centers (Makerere University), for R&D. In addition, we are kickstarting collaborations with key training centers for P&O technicians: TATCOT (Tanzania), KMTC (Kenya) and the University of Rwanda.

WHERE WE STAND

Currently, we are embarking on the most crucial phase of our development, the Implementation Phase. We are certifying our prosthetic system according to the EU Medical Device Regulation and ISO Standards while establishing our supply chain in Nairobi. We are developing our training programs and strengthening our partnership with the region's main stakeholders. We will launch our first training in the first half of 2023 and begin distribution during the second half in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. We are currently looking for value aligned co-funders to be able to successfully carry out these activities and scale our impact.



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