

Limb prosthesis project

People in remote villages of Kenya usually have no access to modern healthcare facilities much less specialized care for the disabled. Children and adults can have their legs amputated because of accident, infections, and snake bites they are then left to suffer for life without any hope of being able to walk again. Many of them do not even know that limb prosthesis can be fitted to enable them walk on their own.

The CHEPs Jaipur foot project comes as a hope for such people in remote Wajir county of Kenya. The first group of 8 amputees from Wajir County were brought to Nairobi and fitted with limb prosthesis on 8th November 2013, thanks to support from Beta Charitable Trust, UK.

LEASE OF LIFE AT JAIPUR FOOT CENTRE.



79 year old Muhumed Adan Issa lost his lower limb in a grisly road accident 36 year ago. Since that fateful day, the octogenarian was confined to his small hut situated at the remote village of Makaror in Wajir County. Issa was dejected and angry about his fate. Let alone other chores. Even when he was to answer a call of nature, his sons had to ferry him on a wheel barrow.

That was his situation until a CHEPs volunteer showed up at his doorstep one fine morning. He was surprised to hear that his condition could be corrected with the provision of an artificial leg at virtually no cost to him.

“This piece of news was the best I heard in my entire life” said Issa who never hesitated to embark on the **700 km journey** to Nairobi’s South Rotary club Jaipur foot centre. “The artificial limb has given me a new lease of life, said Issa after he was fitted with a prosthetic leg. My happiness is beyond measure and I am like a baby who is learning how to walk for the first time.”

During a monitoring visit by CHEPs CEO on 22nd November 2013 Issa said, “I am now able to walk on my own to my farm and supervise the activities, previously others had to help me with the farming. For 36years I have been using crutches which would give me sever pain in my chest and arms. I never knew that with this simple artificial leg I would no longer suffer the pain” The family was also happy to see him so mobile.



Another amputee who benefitted from the Jaipur foot project is 12 year old Mahat Muktar, a victim of snake bite whose right leg was amputated above the knee in 2010. Since then, the poor kid was hidden in God-ade village deprived of the joys of childhood. He was literally discriminated and not allowed to play with other children nor go to school. Soon after he was fitted with an artificial leg, the boy was seen joyfully kicking a ball bought for him by CHEPs. Like his peers, little Mahad is set to join standard One next year.



Out of the seven amputees who made the trip to the Rotary club of Nairobi south Jaipur foot project was an enthusiastic 40 year Ahmed Mude who eked a living through begging. However soon after acquiring a leg, he promised to venture into dignified source of income and was contemplating to try his hands on peddling wares as a hawker.



CHEPs handed him his first capital/commodity for peddling as soon as he goes back home.

His counterpart, Ahmed Billow was yet another happy beneficiary. Billow also 40years was a qualified driver and had his leg chopped off 5 years ago after a lorry he was driving was involved in a terrible accident. Following the accident that claimed his leg, his family suffered a great deal since their sole provider become invalid. "My wife left me and my children dropped out of school. "I hated myself" said Billow. But moments after receiving a new leg, Billow oozed with happiness as he attempted to carefully guide his steps in his artificial limb. I can now re-new my defunct driving license because I can drive automatic vehicles like taxi's and once more put my life together" said Billow.





58 year old Jimale was livestock herder for the better part of his life until four years ago when he lost his leg to a vicious wild animal attack. For the past 4 years I was secluded in my hut in Bulla Isiolo village and I have no idea about the whereabouts of my livestock” says Jimale. “Now that I can walk again I will have to go back to the bush to look after my animals since it is the only thing I know best”, he said.



Khalif Osman also 58 years hails Arbajahan location of wajir west constituency. He lost his leg at a tender age after a camel trampled on him. He has since been confined at home to watch over the children and property while his relatives went to the pasture land to look after the animals. Fate made him a bitter man because he felt excluded from decision making and was allegedly considered a child. “But thanks God, with this artificial leg I can walk again and also fight for what is rightfully mine”.



Ali Mohamud is only 22 years. The young man could not hide his emotions shortly after receiving his new leg. He was awestruck and excited about his leg to the verge of tears. He is a livestock broker at wajir livestock market where he buys animals for butcher men who pay him some fees for his work. He says he used to hire a donkey cart at sh.100 every day to carry him to his place of work. CHEP’s team caught up with him while at his trade and was very agile as he attempted to chase after straying goats in his prosthetic leg. “I no longer pay anyone to bring me here” he says. “I walked from my home in Bulla sheikh and I took about 30 minutes for the 4 km journey”



Eliyas (30yrs) never had his leg fixed. His stump was sore thus he was tied with an elastic bandage that will hold the leg and make it fit to be fitted with a leg. Still painful and was advised to return later in January.

