El Salvador ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2007. The Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Persona con Discapacidad (CONAIPD) carries out activities for persons with disabilities, focusing on social protection and social integration mechanisms. The Ministry of Health (MOH) established a national physical rehabilitation entity dedicated to coordinating rehabilitation activities in El Salvador in 2018.

Physical rehabilitation services at government facilities – such as the Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI), the national reference center – are free of charge. However, the provision of services is hindered by limited budget and by restrictive policies on importing materials.

In Santa Ana, the prosthetics/orthotics workshop of the general hospital is in the process of being transferred to the Centro para la Rehabilitación Integral del Oeste (CRIO), a satellite centre of ISRI.

Since 2003, we have supported training in prosthetics/orthotics at the University of Don Bosco (UDB), which is the only school in Latin America with ISPO Cat. I and II accreditation. We started to support the School more closely in 2008 to help strengthen its programs, and began a partnership with the Physiotherapy Department of the Universidad de El Salvador (UES) in 2018.

**KEY FACTS & FIGURES - 2018**

- **POPULATION**: 6,370,000<sup>1</sup>
- **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**: ~260,000<sup>2</sup>
- **CAUSE OF DISABILITIES (MOBILITY, SELF-CARE, VISION)**: Stroke; cerebral palsy; infectious diseases (polio, leprosy); drug and alcohol use
- **UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD)**: 2007<sup>3</sup>
- **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)**: 119/188

**MOVEABILITY’S PARTNERS IN EL SALVADOR**

- Centro para la Rehabilitación Integral del Occidente (CRIO)
- Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Persona con Discapacidad (CONAIPD)
- Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI), San Salvador
- Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
- Universidad de El Salvador (UES)
- University Don Bosco Prosthetics and Orthotics School (UDB), San Salvador

*Presented in alphabetical order

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<sup>1</sup> Source: World Bank data


<sup>3</sup> Ratification of UNCRPD
The lack of a specialized institution to care for persons with disabilities incited a group of citizens to create the Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI) in November 1957. With the mission of providing medical care to people in need of hospital care, in addition to helping people with cerebral palsy who, due to their lack of resources, could not afford to go to hospitals.

Thousands of patients pass through the ISRI every year to receive quality and affordable care. Since 2014, after the signature of a cooperation agreement, it is one of the most important partners of MoveAbility in El Salvador. Four years of collaboration have enabled ISRI to significantly improve the quality of its products and services, but also its management skills.

In April 2018, a new step was taken with the inauguration ceremony, to which Thierry Regenass, the Executive Director of MoveAbility participated, for the future prosthetic/orthotic unit being built in ISRI’s satellite center in Santa Ana. This new unit will be a real improvement for the patients of the region, who will no longer have to travel to the capital to get assistive devices.

Sonia Montes is one of those patients who following a tragic accident was treated by ISRI with her daughter Elizabeth. One evening, as they were driving home from a family reunion, the vehicle went off the road and rolled over. Sonia and her daughter barely made it out, but they had to undergo amputations. Her daughter lost her left arm and right leg, and she lost her right forearm. “I will never forget that day and the image of my daughter lying on the road,” she remembers with emotion.

“It is when you hear stories like Sonia’s that you remember the importance of having rehabilitation centers like ISRI to care for patients who don’t have enough financial resources,” says the Director of ISRI, Dr. Alex Gonzalez. He is pleased with the positive evolution of the center in recent years and the fruitful collaboration with partners such as MoveAbility. “We thank MoveAbility for supporting our projects and I am sure that we will continue to do more and work better for persons with disabilities in El Salvador,” said Dr. Gonzalez.

**ISRI: A REHABILITATION CENTER MOVING FORWARD**

**SUPPORTING NATIONAL AUTHORITIES**

MoveAbility will support the activities of the MOPH, particularly those of the newly-established national entity for physical rehabilitation, and help them strengthen their capacities through various forms of technical and material assistance; the entity plays a key role in the coordination and organization of activities on a national level. In parallel, we will support the work of CONAIPD, especially in terms of helping set policies related to physical rehabilitation and exchanging best practices with other relevant actors in the region.

**STRENGTHENING SERVICES IN EL SALVADOR**

We will continue to build on recent developments – for example, our recently-established collaborations with the UES and with satellite centers of ISRI – in order to strengthen physical rehabilitation services in El Salvador. For instance, we will facilitate the coordination of service providers in El Salvador with other actors in the region, to help them boost their capacities by learning from their best practices and participating in training courses abroad.
NATIONAL PLAN
In 2018, the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and MoveAbility signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The creation of a physical rehabilitation entity dedicated to coordinating rehabilitation activities in El Salvador was at the centre. The first meeting of this entity, held in June 2018, was attended by representatives from the Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI), the Universidad Don Bosco (UDB), the Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Persona con Discapacidad (CONAIPD) and the MOPH, among others.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Students from neighboring countries and from El Salvador studied with UDB on MoveAbility scholarships. Technicians and physiotherapists from El Salvador countries around the region took short courses at UDB with financial support from MoveAbility.

QUALITY OF SERVICES
The UDB and ISRI procured raw materials for producing assistive devices and sent their staff to take courses on administration, communication and other specialized topics with help from MoveAbility.

ACCESS TO SERVICES
In December 2017, the MOH had declared its intent to transfer the prosthetic and orthotic unit of the hospital in Santa Ana to a new facility. Construction of the new unit in CRIO began in April 2018, with our financial support, and will improve access to assistive devices and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Santa Ana.

MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES
MoveAbility partner organizations improved their capacities, thanks to a program implemented by Moveability in collaboration with the FHM. Members of the physical rehabilitation entity also participated in this training.

BENEFICIARY STATISTICS 2016–2018

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES FROM OUR PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0–15 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROVIDED BY OUR PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prostheses</th>
<th>Orthoses</th>
<th>Crutches</th>
<th>Wheelchairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>1,901</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>2,031</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>1,938</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Services include: prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, other rehabilitation services and consultations.
2 The final beneficiaries data as reported by the partners in the field.
3 As reported in October 2018, extrapolated to year end.
OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED IMPACT FOR 2019-2021

By the end of the reporting period covered by this document, in 2021, we aim to have contributed to the following objectives:

**NATIONAL PLAN**
- The physical rehabilitation entity meets regularly and coordinates physical rehabilitation activities including training, and quality of access to services
- The Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Persona con Discapacidad (CONAIPD) regularly participates in exchanges of information with the authorities of other countries in the region, particularly on national policies concerning physical rehabilitation and the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) of the WHO.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- The Universidad de El Salvador (UES) and the University Don Bosco Prosthetics and Orthotics School (UDB), and the Instituto Politécnico de la Salud “Luis Felipe Moncada” of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN-POLISAL), collaborate closely (e.g. exchange best practices, implement short courses for exchange of knowledge)
- The Instituto Salvadoreño de Rehabilitación Integral (ISRI) improves its facilities for clinical placements, enhancing the learning environment of its students, and diversifies its locations for students’ placements to include opportunities outside El Salvador

**QUALITY OF SERVICES**
- Centers take steps to improve their services
- In collaboration with the UDB and the Salvadorean Red Cross Society, the satisfaction of patients and the quality of services at ISRI are assessed (e.g. through beneficiary interviews, technical assessments)
- A database for the physical rehabilitation centers’ records is deployed for all service providers in El Salvador

**ACCESS TO SERVICES**
- Service providers under the authority of the MOPH are able to meet their needs for raw materials and components, and issues of public funding for their activities are discussed by the national physical rehabilitation entity
- The prosthetics and orthotics unit of Centro para la Rehabilitación Integral del Occidente (CRIÓ) San Miguel is rebuilt, enabling them to improve the quality of their work
- Cerebral palsy patients who are part of Los Angelitos – a Disabled Peoples’ Organization – obtain physical rehabilitation services and prosthetic/orthotic devices at the UDB
- Athletes with disabilities receive specialized prosthetics/orthotics from UDB, allowing them to participate in competitions and other activities which foster the inclusion of persons with disabilities through sports

**MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES**
- MoveAbility’s partners in El Salvador, particularly managers and key senior staff, reinforce their capacities
- The UDB benefits from an assessment to improve its management of its facilities

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1 The budget is indicative and is subject to income received.