In 2007, MoveAbility began to support Ecuador’s physical rehabilitation sector by partnering with the Fundación Hermano Miguel (FHM), a local charity that runs a rehabilitation center including prosthetic and orthotic services, to promote the use of the polypropylene technology that the ICRC developed for the production of assistive devices.

Ecuador has signed or ratified several disability-related conventions. It ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2008 and has been working to implement it since then – for instance, by adopting the Organic Law on Disability in 2012 and by creating a registry of persons with disabilities. The Consejo Nacional de Discapacidades (CONADIS) is a cross-sectoral government agency that coordinates efforts to develop disability-related policies. In December 2017, through CONADIS, the government presented the National Disability Plan for 2017-2021.

Ecuador’s president, who is a wheelchair user, has previously lobbied for a number of initiatives for persons with disabilities including a database that aims to facilitate the provision of medical treatment tailored to people’s needs. In 2018, the government began working on a new system to evaluate and classify disabilities based on criteria from the World Health Organization (WHO); over 100,000 persons with disabilities received a pension.

In April 2016, an earthquake devastated northwestern Ecuador, causing a number of new disabilities; CONADIS has identified and nearly registered 98 amputees to date, but others may also be in need of assistance.
OUR APPROACH IN ECUADOR

WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES
MoveAbility will continue to support CONADIS, local service providers and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) as of 2019 in improving physical rehabilitation policies and/or services in Ecuador. For example, we will support CONADIS in facilitating discussions between authorities of Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and other countries in the region, on topics such as applying the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health in measuring disability. We will also work with the MOPH to bolster the capacities of the national physical rehabilitation platform.

BACKING LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
MoveAbility will help the FHM and the MOPH ensure the provision and sustainability of physical rehabilitation services at their centers. We will support the MOPH in its efforts to provide such services and to improve people’s access to them by ensuring these treatments are free of charge for patients who can’t afford them. In 2019, we will help sponsor a new benchmarking assessment by SGS of the FHM’s management capacities.

Together with the FHM, Universidad Don Bosco (UDB) in El Salvador and other institutions in the region, we will organize training courses for people working in the physical rehabilitation sector – to help contribute to the continued provision of services in Ecuador. With our support, the FHM will create a training unit for its staff and those of other centers. It will also continue to manage a database of information on physical rehabilitation needs and services in the region; by 2019, our partners in the region will have been trained by the FHM to use the database.

EARLY TREATMENT FOR BETTER ChANCES
Scoliosis affects only 2-3% of the world’s population and is well treated when detected at early stages. In low- and middle-income countries, the difficulty lies in the diagnosis, which is usually not done early enough due to the lack of competent centers and of financial resources.

Fortunately, the parents of Eduardo, an Ecuadorian teenager, noticed a deformity on their son’s back at an early stage. After the diagnosis of scoliosis was made, they realized that they would not be able to pay for treatment. It was then that they heard about the Fundación Hermano Miguel (FHM) center in Quito, a rehabilitation center supported by MoveAbility, which could offer them free care, under course about “Clinical evaluation of patients with scoliosis”.

After an initial consultation with Eduardo, the course participants adopted a multidisciplinary approach to his treatment. The first step consisted of wearing a brace adapted to the patient to allow the vertebral column to position himself correctly and grow straight. The second step was physical therapy, composed of daily exercises that can reduce the spinal curvature by up to 32%.

Eduardo’s parents were delighted that their son could have adequate care and that he would regain his physical health. “We were touched by the warm welcome and the extremely competent care of our son. We will always be grateful to FHM and MoveAbility for what they have done for us,” concludes Eduardo’s mother.

Soon after he was fitted with his brace, Eduardo could start doing sport again without hurting himself.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL PLAN
We supported CONADIS in taking steps towards developing and coordinating disability-related policies among government agencies.
With our financial support, government representatives from Ecuador, El Salvador and Nicaragua attended an event organized by CONADIS. During the event, they exchanged information on their national disability policies, such as those on access to physical rehabilitation services, inclusive education and vocational training.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
One prosthetist/orthotist from the FHM continued to pursue distance-learning training modules provided by UDB in El Salvador for certification in ISPO Category II.
At the request of CONADIS, UDB and MoveAbility assessed the training needs of prosthetic and orthotic technicians at three public rehabilitation centers – in part, to help build partnerships for future cooperation.

QUALITY OF SERVICES
In 2017, we helped the FHM evaluate their quality-control tools, and the quality of their services, and to use the information from these activities to address any points for improvement, with specific training organized by MoveAbility.

ACCESS TO SERVICES
The FHM revised its criteria for identifying economically vulnerable people with disabilities. After the earthquake in April 2016, we supported the victims.

MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES
The FHM implemented about 90% of the recommendations from an NGO-benchmarking assessment by SGS conducted in 2015.

BENEFICIARY STATISTICS 2016–2018

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES FROM OUR PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>People Who Received Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>5,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>5,140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>*0–15 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</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>88</td>
<td>721</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td>551</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Services include: prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, other rehabilitation services and consultations.
The final beneficiaries data as reported by the partners in the field.
2. 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 national physical rehabilitation platform – led by the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and composed of different professionals – is active and meets regularly; a national plan on the rehabilitation sector is created
> Through the efforts of Consejo Nacional de Discapacidades (CONADIS), national authorities of Ecuador and other countries in the region learn from each other’s insights and experiences in creating and implementing national disability policies

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
> People working in the physical rehabilitation sector – doctors, prosthetists, orthotists, administrative staff and other professionals – further develop their capacities to provide good-quality services
> The Hermano Miguel Foundation (FMH) is able to provide opportunities for physical rehabilitation professionals to hone their skills

**QUALITY OF SERVICES**
> The FMH and physical rehabilitation centers run by the MOPH incorporate a multidisciplinary approach to physical rehabilitation and implement our recommendations to improve their services
> The centers run by the MOPH assess and address gaps in their service-delivery with quality-control tools. By 2020, with the Ecuadorian Red Cross Society and other entities, we begin to work towards conducting patient-satisfaction surveys at facilities

**ACCESS TO SERVICES**
> Persons with disabilities – particularly those who can’t afford to pay for services – are able to access free, good-quality services at the FMH
> Physical rehabilitation centers under the MOPH improve their services and production capacities with donations of raw materials

**MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES**
> Administrative and management tools are developed and standardized for physical rehabilitation centers under the MOPH; management staff have improved capacities
> MoveAbility’s partner organizations in the region are able to develop their organizational capacities, guided by best practices of the FMH

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