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RANGE OF MOTION PROJECT: Helping more Ecuadorian amputees to obtain affordable prostheses

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Abstract

The poster describes the author's volunteer experience with Range of Motion Project (ROMP). The organization provides prostheses at affordable prices to economically vulnerable people in Ecuador, Guatemala, and the United States. In the poster, the author discusses ROMP's clinical trip program, which involves volunteers from abroad building prostheses in Ecuador. Finally, the poster invites readers to join the clinical trip in November 2023.

Introduction

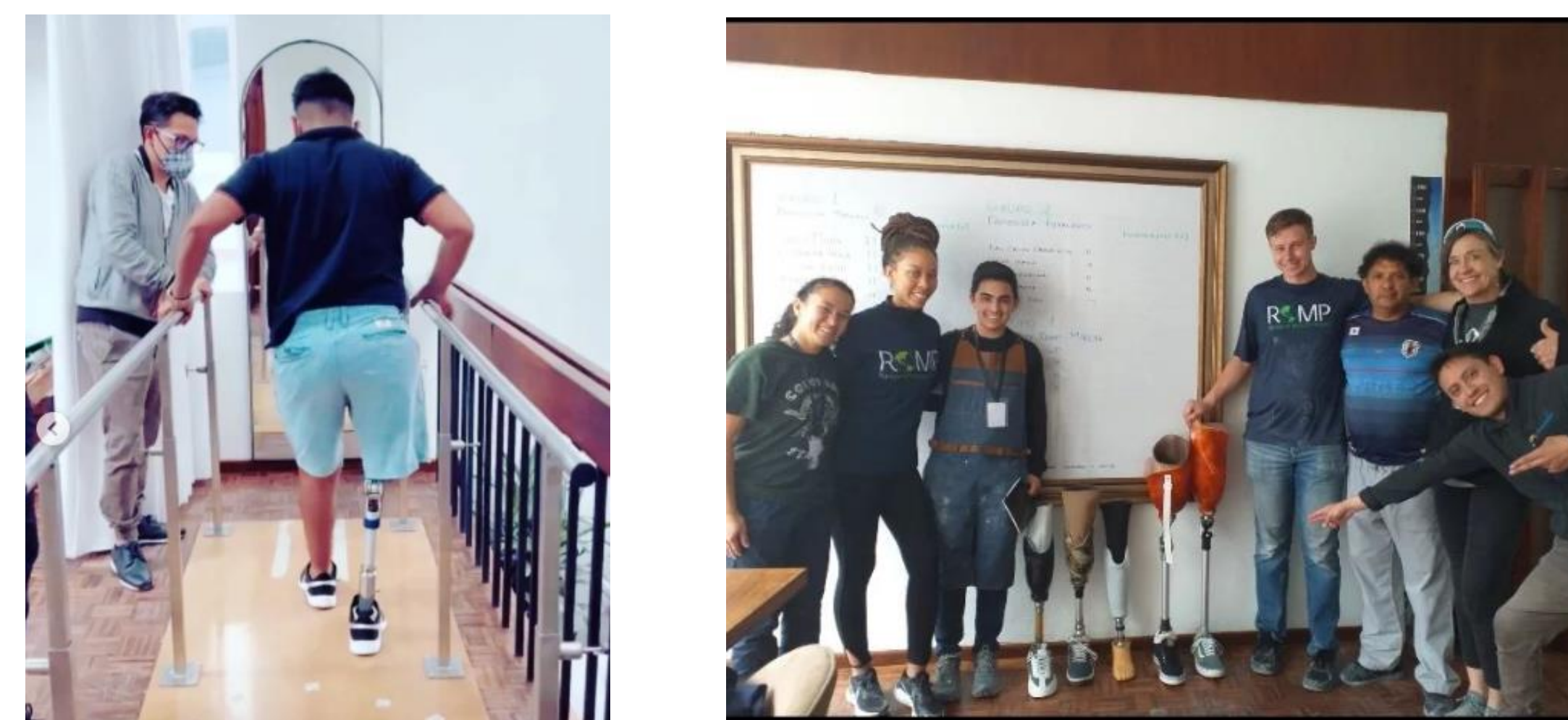
Ecuador has 215,156 people with physical disabilities, according to the National Council for the Equality of Disabilities (CONADIS) [1]. However, the type of physical disability they have is unknown, making the data incomplete. Amputations of the upper and lower limbs lead to physical disability. Therefore, this poster will be a narrative of the author's experience volunteering at the ROMP, a project that provides prostheses to economically vulnerable people in Ecuador.

The author participated in the clinic trip program in Ecuador. In this program, volunteers from abroad (mainly from the United States) travel to Ecuador for 10 days to develop a prosthesis from the casting, to fabrication, to deliveries and gait training. During this program, volunteers learn how to build a prosthesis from scratch.



(a) (b)
Figure 2. (a) Casting (b) Fabrication. Source: [2]

In the United States, the prostheses components are recycled and shipped to Ecuador. With the help of the prosthetists, volunteers assemble the prostheses and work on the sockets. Once patients have been fitted with prostheses, their physical performance is evaluated according to a protocol.



(a) (b)
Figure 3. (a) Gait Training (b) Delivery. Source: [2]

Results

With clinic trips program, ROMP delivered **202 devices** in Ecuador during 2022

Discussion

People with physical disabilities are negatively impacted by Ecuador's healthcare system. Furthermore, many amputees cannot afford prostheses because of their high cost. That is why ROMP also offers follow-up care for each prosthesis, including psychology counseling, prosthetic maintenance, physiotherapy, and other medical evaluations. As a result, 202 represents the social impact of ROMP on restoring mobility. A prosthesis means a better quality of life for the patient, greater employment opportunities, in short, fulfilling their dreams.



Figure 4. Improving patients' quality of life. Source: [2]



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Conclusion

As part of its clinic trip program, ROMP provides mobility to vulnerable people. ROMP's work reduces Ecuador's lack of amputee care. ROMP's dream is that in Ecuador, everyone who needs a prosthesis has it easily accessible. That is why the author invites readers to participate in the clinical trip program as well as the other ROMP programs. For more information scan the QR code.

References

- [1] Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad De Discapacidades, "Consejo Nacional para la Igualdad De Discapacidades," January 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://www.consejodiscapacidades.gob.ec/estadisticas-de-discapacidad/>. [Accessed 8 August 2023].
- [2] Range of Motion Project, "Range of Motion Project," 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://rompglobal.org/>. [Accessed 8 August 2023].



Figure 1. Social Impact of ROMP. Source: [2]

Methods

The author used an experience-based methodology for data collection. During the past year (2022), he volunteered as a translator between foreign volunteers and prosthetists in ROMP. Since 2005, ROMP has provided high-quality prosthetic care to underserved individuals, improving their mobility and independence. ROMP works in Ecuador, Guatemala, and The United States. ROMP has many programs to help amputees.