

EXPANSION TO AMAZON

February 19th - 24th, 2023
Macas, Morona-Santiago, Ecuador



Prepared For :

Cotopaxi Foundation
The Hill Family
The Coffey Family
The Oros Family
& ROMP Stakeholders

Range of Motion Project

Lauren LP Panasewicz
lp@rompglobal.org
303-946-7124

Summary of Day 0 - Macas Trip 2/19

On the morning of Sunday, February 19th, our ROMP Ecuador team and part of the ROMP Global team packed up two cars full of supplies, tools, and prosthetic components and headed out of Quito.

Approximately 380 km and 7+ hours later, our team arrived in Macas, Ecuador, the capital of the Morona - Santiago region.

Our team this week includes Dave (ROMP Global ED), Gabriela (ROMP's Admin Director), LP (ROMP's Director of Development), Shaneis (ROMP Volunteer Prosthetist and public health advocate), Tino (ROMP filmmaker extraordinaire), Lili (ROMP Ecuador Country Director), Mireya (ROMP prosthetist), Steven (Operation Assistant), and Eduardo (Krupa O&P handyman).



Dave, Tino, Gabriela, Shaneis, LP, Mireya, and Steven (left to right and back to front).



Loading Dave's car roof with tools, supplies, and our Cotopaxi bags full of prosthetic components.



Dave's car packed full of new devices ready to be delivered to ROMP patients in Macas! These patients were evaluated 6 months ago and will be delivered this week.



ROMP Ecuador Team: Steven, Lili, and Miraya on a quick stop during the 7 hour drive to Macas.



A park near our new clinic location that is great for gait training.

Summary of Day 1 - Macas Trip 2/20

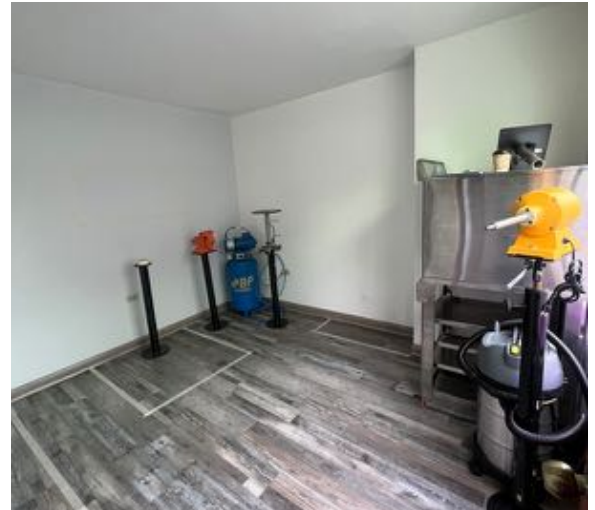
Monday we arrived at the Medical clinic of Dr. Nelson Amador where we have been offered a room for our satellite prosthetic fabrication lab. Our team was quick to unpack our equipment, make a plan for the space, source more tools, and start retrofitting the space. In the afternoon, we drove to a patient's home for a casting and will fabricate the socket this week as the **FIRST EVER** full fabrication and delivery in the ROMP Macas location.



Mireya and Eduardo unpacking our tools.



Multiple trips to the hardware store to purchase supplies.



Fabrication lab coming together after Day 1.



Heading out from the clinic to a home visit for casting.



The bags are filled with mostly prosthetic supplies but we also have confetti poppers and foam sprayers as part of the local Carnival celebration.



Visiting patient Angel at his home during Carnival meant our staff was not safe from the festivities including water balloons and face paint. Definitely a patient home visit to remember!

Summary of Day 2 - Macas Trip 2/21

Tuesday was a 16+ hour day! Our team divided and conquered to get more done. In Macas, Eduardo, Steven, Lili, and Mireya worked with local carpenters to build out the fabrication lab so it was ready for our patients this week. Dave, Tino, Dr. Nelson, Shaneis, and myself (LP) headed into the field at 5am to do a delivery with Rodrigo, a patient we casted 6 months ago, and conduct a follow up with patient Ezekiel. It was quite the adventurous day! To get to Rodrigo's home, it took approximately 5.5 hours - including many kilometers on dirt road and 2 river crossings, one on a barge (left photo) and one by car (right photo), which ended up being a bit concerning after it had been raining all day.



We met Rodrigo at his family home (right) where we were welcomed with open arms and gratitude. Rodrigo lost his leg when he was 10 years old as the result of a snake bit. He had been using the same leg for 18 years and it was in very rough shape: the socket and foot were broken and he was using a piece of cloth to tie his leg on. In just a few minutes, he was up and walking on his new leg - feeling very stable and comfortable on the uneven ground around his house and even playing soccer with his kids.



Summary of Day 2 - Cont...

Next, we crossed the river on the way back to Piankas where Ezekiel lives. ROMP casted and delivered his first prosthesis last year in his home. When we arrived to his house, they told us he had moved down the street but that we could find him at the community Carnival celebration down the road. So naturally, we surprised him for a follow up visit with his friends, peers, and family watching. He needed a height adjustment and dynamic alignment and was ready to get back to playing in no time. Our team was ambushed by his friends with spray foam, colored face paint, and water balloons in between prosthetic adjustments which made for a very fun fitting!



Day 3 & 4 - Macas Trip 2/22 & 2/23

Wednesday we finished building out the fabrication lab and started seeing patients in the new space. We had four patients come in to the clinic for follow up appointments, repairs, and a casting. Many of the patients we are seeing this week received their devices from ROMP six months ago during one of our mobile clinic trips to Macas. Check out the amazing space after only two days:



Thursday was a busy day in the clinic with many follow ups and repairs. For example, Rosa (left photo below) received a prosthesis from ROMP six months ago and she needed a valve repair on her socket and a few minor adjustments. Carmen (middle photo below) needed new liners and a new sleeve and she was ready to dance salsa! Marjory needed a height increase of 1 cm, replacement of her pin lock system, and some additional padding in her socket. These are just a few examples of why ongoing prosthetic care is so vital to improved patient outcomes. ROMP is now able to provide permanent, high-quality care to vulnerable people with amputation in the Ecuadorian Amazon.



Day 5 - Macas Trip 2/24

On Thursday we pulled our first socket in the new fabrication lab for our patient Angel who we casted at his home on Monday afternoon. On Friday he came in to get his new leg! This is the first of many new devices that will be made in Macas for our community.



Angel's prosthetic limb from start to finish. Our first full device fabricated and delivered in our new satellite location in Macas, Ecuador!

We wrapped up the week with the final deliveries and follow ups. Overall we saw 21 patients, delivered 6 new devices, and set up a permanent site for ROMP Ecuador in Macas. This is an exciting development as part of our long term strategic plan to expand our reach and services in Ecuador.



Macas, we'll be back soon!



The Vision, 2023 and Beyond:

In 2023, we will return to the new Macas clinic for patient care at least three more times to provide follow-up and first time prosthetic care for dozens more patients. We will integrate with the network of community health workers to find more patients and to explore opportunities to establish our proven community based rehabilitation (CBR) program in the Amazon. We will run mobile clinic operations from Macas deep into the indigenous territories of the interior. We will continue working through our wait list of patients and craft a timeline for achieving 100% mobility for all amputees in this part of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

In 2024 and beyond, we will mobilize teams of volunteer specialists to provide care in Macas alongside our Ecuadorian staff. We will increase staffing and fabrication capacity to meet the demand for services. We hope to sign contracts with local government and business stakeholders in order to fund long-term provision of care. We will continue working through our plan to achieve 100% access to prosthetic care and mobility for all vulnerable amputees in the region.