



## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

### Background

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According to the National Bureau of Statistics of Colombia (DANE), there are around 2.6 million people with physical disabilities in the country, of which 760.000 have mobility issues, including amputations. The most common causes for these disabilities are: violence, the ongoing armed conflict, traffic accidents, work accidents, snake bites, genetic conditions and diseases, such as strokes and diabetes, among others.

For people who have lost one of their legs, everyday obstacles go beyond a difficulty to move around freely. In addition to losing one or both their lower limbs, amputees also lose the use of one or both arms, because they have to use crutches. In many cases, they lose their independence and must give up important academic, personal and economic activities and opportunities. A disability can also affect family dynamics, because often another member of the family must remain home as a caregiver or companion preventing them from undergoing their usual economic and social activities.

Being an amputee not only reduces a person's employment and academic opportunities that affect their welfare as well as their families' future. Not only their incomes are gone or diminished, but also their self-esteem and their ability to make a contribution to their community.

In Mahavir Kmina we firmly believe that the comprehensive development of a nation must include opportunities for people with disabilities. Otherwise the society loses all the potential that they can deliver. Especially when, in most cases, the people who are the most exposed to this type of disabilities, are the most vulnerable, and whose professional activities are closely related to physical labor such as farmers, coffee growers, construction or informal workers.

The situation of people with an amputation in Colombia is extremely hard, especially for those coming from remote and vulnerable communities, like most of our beneficiaries. In many cases due to ignorance, the difficulty to access health services and its high cost, amputees are left without access to a prosthesis and must continue to use crutches or create a limb out of whatever they can find around –metal, wood, plastic, pvc pipes-, sometimes decades past before an amputee can walk again and become an active part of his community.

### Our identity

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Mahavir Kmina is a non-profit organization, (belonging to the legal category of "Corporación" in accordance with the Colombian law, which presents the same legal characteristics of a foundation in the UK). It was created on March the 5th, 2007, with the objective of manufacturing and donating prostheses free of charge for all those who have lost one of its legs, with an emphasis on vulnerable



population. Our main goal is the physical rehabilitation of amputees, helping them to restore their human dignity and feel that they can become an active member of society again.

## Our Mission

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Mahavir Kmina's Mission is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of vulnerable people who have suffered an amputation, manufacturing, fitting and donating high quality and resistant prostheses, in order to improve their mobility, autonomy and self-esteem, providing them with new horizons of physical, psychological and economic development.

## Our Beneficiaries

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Our beneficiaries are mostly people from vulnerable and remote communities, specially children, single mothers, and the elderly. We help everyone who has suffered an amputation of lower limbs, without distinction of cause, age, race, religion or creed. We provide new prostheses for people who either have never had one or have it in poor condition. For our beneficiaries this prosthesis do not only represent the possibility to walk again but also to access opportunities better of personal growth and development.

## How we do it

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When it first started, Mahavir Kmina received the support of the BMVSS Foundation in India, they have decades of experience producing and fitting prosthesis using the *Jaipur Foot*, -a prosthetic foot developed by the foundation and MIT, that has all the characteristics of a biological foot-, perfectly adaptable to the needs and terrain conditions that amputees face in Colombia. The *Jaipur foot* allows not only walking but also running, climbing trees, walking up and down stairs, dancing, riding bicycles or motorcycles and it is waterproof.



These characteristics ensure that the beneficiaries can live a regular life, guarantying normalcy in their daily activities. The *Jaipur Foot* and the prosthesis we learn how to make from the BMVSS foundation can last, in an adult between 3 to 5 years and in the case of children, it requires annual checks-ups according to the child's growth needs. The *Jaipur foot* prosthesis is far less expensive than other market options at a final cost of USD \$1,000, while other models cost between USD \$2,000 to USD \$4,000.



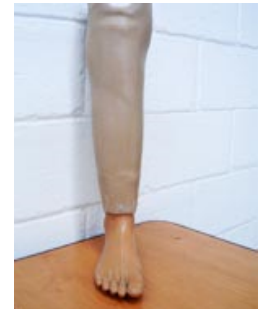
Every beneficiary that comes to our organization begins a presonalized process that will take into account their special needs and situation. Its starts with a medical and pscycological evaluation, to asses both the idoneity of their physical conditions and their

attitude regarding their disability and their new prosthesis, since it is vital for their recovery process.

Next, our technicians take measurements and verify the alignment the prostheses should have, to ensure that it will be properly adjusted with the patient's body. Improving on the process given to us by the BMVSS foundation, the technical team at Mahavir Kmina developed a laser device to perform accurate measurements that takes into consideration the specificities of each person's body.

The prosthesis is produced in our facilities and can be completed in 8 hours after the measurement process. To ensure the quality of the prosthesis and materials, the BMVSS Foundation provides the same materials of the prostheses built in India.

Once the prosthesis is ready it is fitted, verifying its alignment with the patient's body. Finally Mahavir Kmina provides physical therapy and support to the patient, ensuring that he or she can move easily and adapt to the prosthesis. The adjustment period for the prosthesis is short; in most cases the patient can walk out by himself in the same day he or she received the prosthesis. Finally a follow up to the beneficiaries is performed to track and measure the impact of our work



During this process our facilities are a key element, as they were designed to offer the best rehabilitation conditions to our beneficiaries. In addition to a workshop space to produce the prosthesis, there is a wide area for the physical rehabilitation of the patients, one medical office fully equipped and a private room for psychological consultation.

## **Achievements**

Since July 19, 2007 to December 2011 we have benefited 1.800 people (80% men – 20% women). In Colombia we have assisted people from 24 departments, with coverage of the 73% of the national territory with an important emphasis in the departments of Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Bogotá D.C. and Atlantic. In an international level we have assisted people from Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Hungary and Panama.

Our service provision has been inclusive, serving people with different causes of amputation such as landmines, diseases, traffic accidents, industrial accidents and violence.

An important result of our work has been a better understanding of the situation of people with disabilities, especially those who are lower limb amputees. Throughout these years it has been possible to identify the most common causes and the most vulnerable populations, as well as to what extent the lack of a lower limb affects the personal and professional development of the individuals.



## Our vision for the future

We are currently looking for more partners with whom we can work together to impact more people throughout the Colombian territory and begin to have impact in other Latin American Countries. We currently only provide the prostheses and immediate support during the physical and psychological rehabilitation of patients, and in the following months ensuring people are regaining normalcy in their lives.

But we want to expand to contribute to the economic integration of amputees in the labor force to ensure also economic opportunities for those who need them, which is a difficult task in Colombia, we are looking into providing educational material for school to teach children and youth about the inclusion of people with disabilities and traffic accident prevention campaigns. The long-term goal is to expand our activities to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with disabilities and prevention.

## Our Location

We are located in the municipality of La Estrella, 20 minutes from the city of Medellin, Colombia. In the address, carrera 54 # 79 AA Sur - 40 Bodegas La Troja, Local 116. Our location is accessible via public transportation and friendly for people with disabilities.



## Financing

Mahavir Kmina started as a corporate social responsibility initiative, and therefore is funded in its majority by the contributions of the companies of the members of our board of directors. Mahavir Kmina also receives donations from companies, individuals and other second tier non-profit organizations. Another percentage comes from the sale of items such as caps, shirts and bracelets.

Our funding-partner is committed also to match any contribution received by Mahavir Kmina, thus, doubling the resources we obtain in our fundraising efforts in order to reach more beneficiaries.

## Acknowledgements

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- First place in the contest of Exaltation to the Company with the Best Social Projection of the municipality of La Estrella in its fourth version: "Entrepreneur with Human Sense" in 2010. Second place in 2009.
- Recognition by the Departmental Assembly of Antioquia for our work in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Antioquia.
- Recognition from the Governorship of Antioquia for our work with people with disability in the de administration of Governor Luis Alfredo Ramos.
- Recognition from the Chamber of Commerce Aburra Sur honoring our institution for industrial best practices.
- Mayorship of the municipality of Carepa (Antioquia state) and its honorable council recognize our organization with the "Golden Macaw award" for the work done for the people with disabilities in their territory.
- Recognition of the Mayorship of the municipality of San Rafael (Antioquia state), La Estrella (Antioquia state) and La Virginia (Caldas state) for the work done for the people with disabilities in their territory.
- Prize *El Colombiano Ejemplar* (Exemplary Colombian) in the category of solidarity given by the El Colombiano newspaper in 2013.
- Recognition of gratitude by the Ministry of Defense, joined Task Force Omega, for the work done in the city of Barrancabermeja (Santander)

## Our partners

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BMVSS (Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti) from India: Is a non-profit foundation that each year fits about 30,000 prostheses. They developed the Jaipur foot, known for its weather resistance, comfort for walking and aesthetics. In addition to the initial technology transfer, they provide the materials for the fabrication of the prosthesis and there is a constant exchange of experiences and knowledge.



SAGEN: It is a public-private company of public utilities. Its main social purpose is the generation and sale of electricity. Currently we have an agreement to benefit the communities of the regions where ISAGEN has influence.



Funding partners



Fundación San Bernardo



Calle 10 # 41-9 - - Medellín - Antioquia

Fundación Procial

Carrera 43ª # 1-50 Of 956 - -  
Medellín - Antioquia

GÓMEZ-PINZÓN ZULETA





Mansarovar Energy Colombia Ltd.





JLT Re Colombia S.A.

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## Our beneficiaries

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Take a look at some of our work in action in our [institutional video](#) and some of our beneficiaries.



Santiago, 9 years old, genetic disease.



Argenis, 10 years old. Snake bite.





Dayra 9 years old, genetic disease.



Alex, 9 years old, lost his leg while saving his 2 year old sister from being run over by a truck.