

Discussion

Rosa

At age 30, Rosa is a widow supporting 7 children. Her husband was killed during the war and she lost both of her legs to a landmine injury when she ran from fighters attacking her village. She received rehabilitation from the Maputo rehabilitation centre, and currently uses two prostheses and two forearm crutches to ambulate. She uses them all the time, even though she occasionally experiences some stump pain. She also has a wheelchair, but it is broken so she is no longer able to use it. Both of her prostheses are in disrepair, and have undergone a number of homemade repairs, with strips of cloth and pieces of wire used to hold the components together. She knows that they need to be fixed, but she cannot afford the money for the bus and she has no one to look after her children and tend to her animals should she leave for Maputo.

In all, twenty-six of the people we interviewed described and demonstrated the need for repairs to their equipment. Fourteen of them could no longer use their prosthesis because of this. The availability of parts and servicing at the community level currently does not exist, and many did not have the means to afford transportation back to the rehabilitation centre.

