prostheses that meet the requirements for an ideal design. In a representative study, van Brakel et al. report on a cohort of 818 subjects from Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, who reflected many of the demographics identified earlier. Namely, the study cohort was over 80 percent male with less than 14 percent of the subjects reporting an urban living environment. Landmine injuries, gunshot wounds, and traumas accounted for over 90 percent of the amputation etiologies. Fitted with ICRC polypropylene prosthetic systems, subjects wore their prostheses, on average, 9.6 hours per day with a user satisfaction rating over 90 percent.

CONCLUSION
The ICRC polypropylene component system represents one of several design strategies that have been developed to address the unique challenges of prosthetic care in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Current estimates suggest that there are 30 million individuals with amputations in these settings in need of ongoing prosthetic care. This figure, combined with the looming impact of increasing rates of diabetes in adults, indicates that the needs in these communities will continue to be substantial.

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References