



Jamila I. – 2017 – The Netherlands

UNITED Health Projects & HardtHaven Children's Home (anniversary)

Getting out of the airplane in Ghana makes you walk into another world, not only another continent, country or culture. It's all about 'back to basic' and 'back in time'.

Off course I heard these stereotype descriptions before and saw documentaries on television about developing countries, but to experience it in real is much more intense.

As a young medical doctor, I have been able to do various medical related activities. Despite of all my mental preparations in advance, I was still shocked about the healthcare facilities. I experienced the healthcare in St. Patrick Hospital in Kpando, but also gave workshops to pregnant women in Dafor Tornu and did consulting hours in a village nearby Kpando. It is incredible how big the differences are in all of these settings, compared to our safe and well-conditioned environment in Europe. I saw patients dying of diseases that are easy to treat. Easy to treat...if you have the possibilities to do diagnostic tests and have enough money to buy medication. Sometimes it made me sad, but I loved to see the faces of the patients after helping them with very small things. Even after only a clear explanation about their disease they were often so thankful.

In addition to the medical activities, I have been to the children at HardtHaven children's home regularly. It was wonderful to see how easy the children accept every 'new auntie'. They really helped me feel at home in Ghana!

I really enjoyed my time in Kpando and will miss the colorful fabrics, the smell on the market, delicious Fanmilk, water in a bag, the ambiance in the volunteers group, the kids (and maybe (sometimes) I will miss the simplicity in life).

