**Interview local peer**

While I did voluntary work at labour ward of a Referral Hospital in Uganda, I had a lot of contact with Ugandan students, nurses, midwives and doctors. The one who advised and supported me in this period of time, was doctor Derick. For this reason I chose him, for my interview. Dericks answers inspired me and changed how I worked on the ward. I hope you will also feel inspired reading this.

*Tell me something about yourself*

*My name is Derick and I’m 26 years old. I grew up in Walukuba, Uganda. I attended primary school in the slum Masese and one of the islands in Lake Victoria, Lingira Island. After primary school I attended secondary school in Kampala. After graduation I decided to start medical school. In the beginning of 2014 I passed my last exams to be able to graduate as a Health Officer. At the moment I work at Jinja Regional Referral Hospital to be able to register as a doctor in the near future. After this I hope to study to be a surgeon.*

*Can you tell me something about one of the most life changing moments in your life?*

*There are two significant moments, who changed the course of my life drastically. When I was twelve years old my mother passed away.*

*I grew up without my father and at his side of the family I have three half-brothers. For this reason my mom was my everything.*

*My mom and I lived in a house in Walukuba, a small village close to Jinja. I have always seen my mother’s brother as the father figure in my life. When my mother passed away, I couldn’t go to my father and brothers so I was completely on my own. My uncle supported me in this very difficult period of time in my life and brought me closer to God.*

*The second moment that my life drastically changed was when I accepted Jesus in my life. To choose to have a personal relationship with God and to learn more about Christianity. This empowered me to cope with the loss of my mom and to make the decision to study to become a doctor. With the support and guidance of my uncle/father and of course God, I started pastor training and finished this soon after starting. I feel blessed that I can inspire and change other people’s lives.*

*Who is the most influential person in your life?*

*That is my uncle/father. If I wouldn’t have him, I wouldn’t have made the decision to accept Jesus in my life and this gave so much more colour to my life. Besides this, he welcomed me in his family and brought me in contact with my biological father and brothers.*

*What motivates you to work as a Doctor?*

*Not everyone is born for this kind of work. Like I said before, my faith gave me the strength to make the decision to become a doctor. It was too late for my mother, but as a Doctor I can literally save lives. I believe it’s Gods wish that I became a pastor and a doctor to be able to bless others with the gift of life. Every life is precious!*

*I know what it’s like to lose a loved one. I wouldn’t wish that to anyone else.*

*What do you want to achieve in life?*

*I want to be a surgeon, because this is the part of my job I like best and because it gives me satisfaction to see a patient recover after an operation. In all the Governmental Hospitals in Uganda you see a lot of corruption. Nurses and Doctors (Musawo’s) work; not because it gives them satisfaction to help others, but because they see it as a way to gain their incomes. This is the reason why I want to open a clinic myself to be able to give the necessary care and love to the patients, which they deserve. Also I hope that God will bless me with a wife and children, so that I have my own family again.*

*How do you work the achieve your goals in daily life?*

*Work hard to gain as much experience as possible at the Hospital in these last few months before I register as a Health Officer. Read my bible and pray to maintain my personal relationship with God.*

*If you could change one thing in the midwifery care, what would it be?*

*To reduce the neonatal mortality rate!*

*I believe that all the baby’s ‘fight’ in heaven to be able to come down and live their earthly lives. When one of their souls ceased to existed, it’s the greatest lost there is, because they didn’t get the change to be born and see the world. Every time I see stillbirth or when I see a neonate die I feel great sorrow.*

*I’m a person who feels responsible to monitor labouring mothers closely and to do a caesarean section if needed.*

*What advise can you give me, to make it easier for me to work on labour ward?*

*Stay close to yourself and just attend to any patient. All those who you can help, count. Corruption is a major problem on labour ward and it will not stop just because of one person. Feeling frustrated or hurt with the state of affairs will only hurt you, not the ones who are actually responsible for the mistakes which are made. I you can let go and start appreciate the things which do go according to plan you will work with more joy and peace.*

After this interview I changed my attitude and way of work on the ward. I can’t make major changes on my own, but I can do many things! I can changes the course of lives of the mothers I do attend to. If the midwives see that it is possible to work with care for your patients even when it is very busy they will take me as an example in their own time.

When I changed my attitude I got a lot of remarks from the students on the ward that they told me they really appreciated my way of work and they took me as an example. For them it will hopefully help to get a different perspective on how midwifery care should be! All thanks to Derick.