

Our Month at YAWE

When Magi and I boarded the plane to Entebbe on July 31, 2016, we had little idea of what to expect in Uganda. Of course, we had read a lot about it and informed ourselves about the organization, but we could not imagine how it would really be, to see everything at first hand. Above all, we were looking forward to the time and the experiences we would make, but we were also a bit excited.

In Entebbe, we were greeted warmly by George, the head of the organization, and together we went to Fort Portal. Of course, we first had to get used to Uganda. It is just very different from Germany. Whether it's the "Boda-Boda", a motorbike that works like a taxi, food consisting mainly of maize porridge, beans and bananas, or that you are called "muzungu" all the time, which means "person with white skin". But arrived at the office of the organization, everybody was so welcoming and helpful around us that we immediately felt like belonging to the YAWE family. Rarely have we met such nice and open people, which made you feel like you're home so fast.



Our month passed very quickly, because there was always something to be done. In the short time, we were given the opportunity to participate in many different projects that Yawe launched. At the beginning of our time in Fort Portal, we were able to listen to different, interesting lectures on topics such as HIV prevention, family planning and balanced nutrition. Many things that were so self-evident for Magi and me meant something completely new for the people there. For example, people are often critical of "modern" preventive measures, which is why it is so important that YAWE employees do their best to educate people there.

We also got the chance to get a closer look at the medical field of the organization. For example, we were allowed to visit a middle school with Prilla, one of the nurses, where we vaccinated the teenagers against Tetanus. We had the vaccine and the syringes with us, so we set up a table in the schoolyard, where each student could come with his vaccination certificate and get vaccinated. In Uganda, it is not customary to vaccinate against certain diseases from a small age, as the resources are often lacking or people are afraid of it. It was very nice to see how willing YAWE is to help sick people, or to keep them vaccinated against certain diseases.





Gilbert, who works at YAWE, for families with disabled children, took us with him to visit some of these families. We watched him at work and supported him where we could. With the YAWE motorbike, we drove quite far into the surrounding villages, as the families living there, cannot come to the city. First of all, the family members were asked what changes had been made since the last visit, followed by physical therapy with the children or supporting them in school matters. In Uganda, children with disabilities are often seen as a burden for the family, and since they do not yet have the facilities and opportunities to promote such children, they often do not have a

high life expectancy. Gilbert tries with the methods and means at his disposal to encourage the children as good as possible, and you can see how much happier the families and the children themselves are.



We also visited "Kjaninga" with Gilbert, a facility run by two British, who try to help children with disabilities and moving impairments by practicing physiotherapy. We participated in a two-day-event in which we arranged small "Paralympics" for the children of Kjaninga, which will take place in November. There were three trainers from the Olympic Committee for Special Needs and the Paralympic Committee, who were leading us. At the beginning, we tried different Paralympic games ourselves, such as blindfootball, then we figured out what games could be done with the children. We had a lot of fun, and learned a lot of new things.



(One of the British from Kjaninga)



Also, if we were only there for a short time, it was hard to say goodbye. Shortly before we left, we got a really nice farewell party, for which we would like to sincerely thank you again.



We really enjoyed our time In Uganda. We were able to get to know so many great people and to gain a lot of new experiences for which we are really very grateful. It impressed us very much that even though the people there have much less than us, they are really happy and most of all heartfelt.

It is almost impossible to summarize all the experiences in a report ... but an important thing at the end is that Yawe is a special organization that does a lot of valuable work In Fort Portal, and it is nice that "Perspektive für Kinder" helps them so energetically. For you know, this help is needed there, and most importantly it arrives where it is needed.

