



## **Gemima Lubamba**

My name is Gemima Teresa Alexandre Lubamba, and I am a native Angolan. I am 18 years old and I live in Viana-Luanda, where I am a student in my last year of Nursing (13th grade) at Instituto Medio de Luanda Health. Since I was very young, I have been passionate about health care, since it is a noble profession that requires a lot of care and love for others. It reminds me a lot of Jesus's mission and his instruction to love your neighbor as yourself.

I am a Christian, and from the moment I joined this community I started to better understand the meaning of life and the responsibility to help others. In my free time, I like to sing and take care of my brothers. When I am invited, I like to participate in and help with health

screenings that take place at my church. In this way, I can take part in what I know to be the mission and cause of Christ.

The biggest challenge in my country is the lack of resources in hospital settings. There is a great demand for medicines and basic materials such as syringes, compresses, bandages, among others. In hospitals, relatives of patients are obliged to bring these supplies for patients to be treated, something that should be the responsibility of the government. For students like myself, it is also incredibly difficult to obtain health manuals and books, which are very expensive. Additionally, I am required to buy materials for daily practice such as blood pressure meter, sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, diabetes meter, and a computer.

My daily commute is also burdensome. I wake up at 4:30 am to get a motorcycle taxi (150Kwz) from home to the bus station, and from there I take the bus (50 Kwz) to escape the traffic that is common in the city of Luanda. Sometimes, I need to take a taxi (200 Kwz) to school so that I can be punctual and in the classroom at 8:00 am. During my internships at the hospital, the route is the same to return home. I make this commute from Monday to Friday, given the distance between Viana and the city center.

My ultimate goal is to study medicine so that I can help in the development of my country and the improvement of its healthcare system. It will only be possible if each of us does our part. There is only one public university of Medicine in Luanda and access to expensive, private universities that teach medicine is limited. Scholarships for medicine abroad are currently unavailable, which leaves me without many options. I would like to thank the A Great Work Foundation and its team for the initiative and for the impact this organization will have on our society.

Nga Sakidila – Thank you - Thank you.

Best regards,  
Gemima Teresa Lubamba