1. Day

Dear dairy, I’m a 25 years volunteer from Poland and two years ago I decided to go to Namibia to help African people. Today I arrived to my destination point, after 20h flight I’m really exhausted. I’m living in a small hut with other volunteers. They are really nice people from different countries. All of them speak English, so it’s a great opportunity for me to practice it. Tomorrow we are going to visit small villages to meet local people and to talk about their problems.

2. Day

We met local people and how big was my shock. It’s real drama. The conditions o f living are terrible: they don’t have food, running water, they sleep on the floor. Medical service doesn’t exist in their area. There is only a hospice.

When I went to the hospice today I realized the true drama of Africa. Everyone here has HIV. There are many ill children who are without parents, because their parents died. Patients have also tuberculosis and they become sick fast. Also marsh fever is everywhere .+

There is a rule, that people should be around sick person all the time, but there are some patients who don’t have anybody, then family of others take care of them- it’s really moving.

Generally people here are very friendly. They help each other very much. I met a girl called Naya, she is a nurse here. She is very nice and helpful, I think we will become great friends.

I’ve decided to come here every day to help nurses and doctors. I will also take care of sick people after operations, I will help them with getting dressed, washing and walking.

I am very happy I’m here, because I like helping people very much, especially poor people who have nothing. Here in Africa most people need help.

4. Day

I met an African boy, he is ten and he is an orphan. His name is Nani. He lives in nun’s hut. Nani is very intelligent, he speaks English very well, he also knows Geography and Maths.

7.Day

I went for a walk with Nani. He took me to African Savannah. I saw wild animals like lions, zebras and giraffes. African flora and fauna is really amazing. You can’t find such beauty anywhere else in the world.

9.Day

I couldn’t sleep all night because something terrible had happened. In the morning I heard screams. A big lion came to the village. It started running around and roaring. The lion attacked a man. People tried to help him, but the lion wouldn’t let go. Then I took a bucket of water and splashed it to the lion. The animal got scared and ran away.

13. Day

The man who was attacked by the lion recovered. I have to change his bandages. People who live in the village began to build fence because they are scared that the animal will come back. But I love this place it is beautiful, peaceful and quiet, this moment when I am sitting in my little house in the village could stay forever.

23. Day

Each next day I start to miss home so much, my mum, my dad, my friends and my sister. Sometimes when it is too hard, I think about coming back home. Today my friend Nani came to my house and asked me if we could go for a walk. I was very happy because I could relax and forget about my worries. He told me that he was very grateful to God that I had come there because he had a friend, a person who was able to understand him. I was happy too. He took me to his secret place it was near the river. I was thankful to him that he gave his friendship to me.

24. Day

In the hospice I met a girl named Pam. She is very shy and doesn’t talk to anybody. She has a terrible scar on her face. I started talking to her and she told me her story. One day her stepfather split some acid on her face. She hardly survived because she had problems breathing.

29. Day

I decided to help Pam, so I wrote an email to my friends in Poland. We decided to raise money for her. My friend Peter saw an article about a charity, called “ Facing the World”. He wrote to them about Pam. They started money raise.

30. Day

Now, I really appreciate the fact, that I live in Poland. It’s easier for us, we don’t have to worry about clean water and food. Now, I know that my problems are nothing comparing to problems of people in Africa.

34. Day

Today I was really surprised because I got a parcel from my parents. There were many sweets, cosmetics and some clothes. I was immediately surrounded by African kids and there were shining eyes around. I gave all the sweets away. I have never seen such happiness. Children were dancing, singing and jumping around me.

55. Day

I got a message from Peter who wrote that some surgeons from Warsaw wanted to take care of Pam. There also were a lot of young people who were ready to help Pam. I talked to Pam she was very happy and scared because she had to leave Africa for several months.

65. Day

I helped Pam to pack her things for the journey. She doesn’t have many possessions just two T-shirts, a toothbrush and a book about wild animals. We went to the airport in Windhuk. I tried to calm her down because she was really terrified, she was crying and her hands were cold as ice. Pam has never flown before. I really wanted to fly with her but I had so many things to do and so many people to help here in Africa. When the plane was taking up. I was crying because I missed Poland so much and I wanted to be on my way home.

67. Day

I decided to write a book about life in Africa. What I know about Africa is her smell: hot, sweet, smoky, salty, sharp-soft. It is like black tea, cut tobacco, fresh fire, old sweat, young grass. You know you are truly alive when you’re living among lions, tigers, giraffes, rhinos, zebras, wild nature and sincere people. Maybe that is why you seem to live more vividly in Africa. The drama of life there is amplified by its constant proximity to death. That’s what infuses it with tension. It is the essence of its tragedy too. People love harder there. Love is the way that life forgets that it is terminal. Love is life’s alibi in the face of death.

69. Day

Aww what a day! Today I was on a safari with Nani. We saw giraffes, rhinos, lions and other wild animals. Later I had Taonga lessons (it’s a name for a local boat) on a river Zambezi. And the sunset!!! The most beautiful that I’ve ever seen! People who live here believe, that in the river lives god named Niami- Niami who is taking care of the water . I have a necklace with Niami-Niami .

80. Day

Today I got an email from Pam. She is in Poland now, she has already been operated. Pam was so excited, her face looks different, she likes Poland very much, she made friends with some girls. She likes Peter because he supports her and tries to be with her everywhere. Pam misses her mum, her brother very much, but she knows she has to stay in Poland a bit longer.

100. Day

Dear Diary, sorry I haven’t been writing for a long time. I was seriously sick. I caught marsh fever. I’ve been in a hospital for two weeks and nobody could have helped me. You know how medical service looks like here. They don’t have traditional meds like antibiotics or painkillers. Then one day Chloe showed up. She is a medicine-woman. She helps people curing them with herbs, potions and powders. She knew what meds I needed and I can say that I owe my life to her.

In a few days I will be coming back to Poland. After all I went through I’m so happy that I made some of people here smile. Even that I risked my life, I know that I will be back, maybe not next year, but I’ll try to find some free time and come here to help those amazing people.

Now, I’m going to say goodbye to all my friends here, I’ll probably be crying… Christ, I hate farewells.