



My name is Jeanette. I'm 45 years old economist. I have worked in the finance department all in my life, in various positions during the last 20 years...so I could try to do almost everything possible there. I am also the proud mother of two grown boys whom I raised alone.

In August 2021, I made a big decision – that is after the fact I can say it was a very good one - and joined the CICD 6+12-month program. What did this mean in my case? 6 months Gaia period, 5 months DI learning period, 6 months project in Africa / India and then a closing one month – Bringing it to the public... which I am just finishing.

In the first two chapters of the program – Gaia and DI period – I was still out of my comfort zone...but it was a much more better, than before, because it happened in an another country. I had to live “together” with many new and different people in a “community lifestyle”, what I have never done in my life before.

During this period, I learned a lot about my limits and myself. What I can tolerate...what I cannot...and what I do not want at all. It was a very interesting, useful and deep self-knowledge training for me with full of changing feelings.

Overall, I can say it was a very nice period. Luck followed my path...I always could find a way to be happy with the given situation, with the thing I had to do... be it work or study. I think that is very important in real life too. I have always known this, but I had to leave the country where I had to live

so far, that country which was troubling me a lot and completely destroyed me, in order to be able to put this knowledge into practice.

My destination country was Zambia. I could spend half year at DAPP Mkushi College of Education. It is a private Teacher Training College run by Development Aid from People to People (DAPP Zambia) – in association with The University of Zambia – that gives a Primary Teachers' Diploma in three academic years.

This is one of the cheapest private higher education opportunity in Zambia with its very inclusive and innovative education strategy and original, creatively shaped program to train "Another kind of Teachers" especially for rural areas. This boarding Teacher Training College would like to reduce the gap between rural and urban schools and improving the quality of education in rural primary schools.

In my opinion, this is one of the most useful DAPP's project in Zambia, because education is one of the most important tools for development. I am very glad to have been a part of it, even if only for half a year.



My main job was to support the work of the main administration – president and vice president of the college – and teachers. I also helped the students' activities and their daily administration. I enjoyed every second of it. It was a new and even deeper phase of my self-awareness training. I am very grateful to CICD for giving me the opportunity to join this great program.

Next to my college work, we – me and my dou partner from our DI group – also tried to continue a community development project which was started by the previous DI trio from CICD. This was the construction of two dormitories for the nearby combined school. The aim of this project is to provide a better and more livable life for rural students. In rural areas youghts use to live far away from their school. This often causes 20-30 kilometers daily walk for them. Often they don't even come to school beacuse of this, which make to fall behind in their studies. We would like to improve this situation.

The six months I spent in Africa did not cause any difficulties for me, as I could finally live in my comfort zone. The biggest challenge for me was returning to Europe...I have been struggling with this ever since. Arriving back to England, to CICD college, I started the last chapter of my program, the last month, which is called "Bringing to the public".

For me, this meant summarizing what happened during my half year in Zambia and putting it into a nice and enjoyable presentation form. What we first shared here in CICD college, then traveled to Denmark for a week. There we also presented it in many places with interested parties.

Now back from Denmark, I'm spending my last week here at the college. I have to prepare my final report during this time and we will have a graduation ceremony.

After thanking CICD for this great opportunity, I return to my children, who are already waiting for me very much.

What did I learn during this one and half year? You should always have a goal...a dream that you want to achieve...for that you have to work very hard...and never give up...but if you do like this...everything is possible...and you will be very happy in the end...or during your whole "journey" too...